



# Preface

Institute for Chemical Research dates back to 1915 with the founding of the Specialized Center for Chemical Research at the Faculty of Science, Kyoto Imperial University. The formation of the Specialized Center was greatly influenced by historical events. In 1910, Dr. Sahachiro Hata developed salvarsan, a highly effective drug for syphilis, while conducting research with Dr. Paul Ehrlich. The effectiveness of this compound eventually became widely recognized, and its commercial production began in Germany. Although Japan was importing this drug, the outbreak of the World War I ceased the importation, and forced by circumstances the Japanese government requested that the University of Tokyo and Kyoto University produce salvarsan. The fourth Chancellor of Kyoto University, Professor Mitsuru Kuhara, who also happened to be a chemist, received this request. Facilities for salvarsan production were built with an investment of 20,000 yen, which is equivalent to about 200 million yen in today's market. Production went well, and as income was generated, faculty members, who had a passion for research in chemistry, gathered from across the University to form the Specialized Center for Chemical Research, which was later expanded and renamed as Institute for Chemical Research in 1926.

The newly established Institute soon began to produce outstanding research achievements: research on accelerators by Professor Bunsaku Arakatsu, research on synthesized petroleum oil production, and the development of vinylon, which is Japan's first synthetic fiber. Almost all the professors at the Institute, including the aforementioned, were also professors at the Faculty of Engineering or Science. However, over time, people began to recognize the importance of having professors dedicated solely to the Institute in order to operate the Institute with a clear responsibility, as well as the importance of the Institute's contribution in training researchers by providing guidance to graduate students. Thus, the Institute began accepting graduate students in 1962, and reorganization in 1964 saw the installation of the research division system where each division was led by one of our dedicated professors.

Since the Institute's founding in 1926, our basic principle has been to excel in the investigation of the basic principles of chemistry and chemical applications. Through several reorganizations, the Institute currently consists of the following five research divisions: Division of Synthetic Chemistry, Division of Materials Chemistry, Division of Biochemistry, Division of Environmental Chemistry, and Division of Multidisciplinary Chemistry as well as the following three research centers: Advanced Research Center for Beam Science, International Research Center for Elements Science, and Bioinformatics Center.

Today, the Institute spans 31 research fields (laboratories)

with 104 faculty members and about 240 graduate students. Each laboratory belongs to one of the seven graduate schools, which encompass science, engineering, pharmaceutical science, agriculture, medicine, informatics, human and environmental studies. Our laboratories and the graduate schools work together to provide excellent graduate education.

The Institute strives to be the "central research center in chemistry" by achieving outstanding results in chemistry and related fields, and attracting motivated researchers in these fields. Chemistry is a fundamental science, which deals with materials, and its importance, including its contribution to physics and biology, cannot be overemphasized. One of our major strengths is our breadth and depth. In other words, our Institute is multidimensional, and is constantly widening and deepening our research activities. We intend to use our strengths to contribute to pioneering research as well as to expand the boundaries of chemical related fields and to promote research collaborations, which are difficult using conventional graduate schools. Moreover, we aim to utilize our strengths as an outstanding research center in education in order to produce excellent scientists and engineers who possess a broad perspective and can positively contribute to our global society.

The main body of the Institute belongs to the Department of Chemistry of the Graduate School of Science and the Department of Chemical Engineering of the Graduate School of Engineering. This basic structure of having these two departments at the core along with laboratories belonging to other graduate schools and departments, such as pharmaceutical science and agriculture, is a natural structure for a chemistry research center. Institute for Chemical Research is currently working towards establishing Global COE Programs in collaboration with the Graduate School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Science. This year, two programs have been selected from Kyoto University as Global COE Programs: International Center for Integrated Research and Advanced Education in Materials Science, which encompasses chemistry and materials science fields, and Center of Excellence for Education and Research on Photonics and Electronics Science and Engineering, which includes information science, electrical engineering, and electronics. We, at Institute for Chemical Research, would like to be a focal point in the Centers of Excellence by gathering chemists in our three campuses at Yoshida, Uji, and Katsura, and by serving as a bridge between science and engineering. Thus, we respectfully request your continued support and encouragement.

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