

Report of Short-term Exchange Program, Kyoto University

Institute of Chemical Research, Yamago group

By Safwan Aroua, September – October 2014

During my one-month stay at *Kyoto University* in the Laboratory of Professor Shigeru Yamago, I was working on the preparation of a water-soluble polymer Polyvinylpyrrolidone with different lengths. As a doctoral student at ETH-Zurich, preparation of the desired Polyvinylpyrrolidone polymer is important to complete my project focusing on the solubilization of fullerenes.

Since the Yamago group has developed during the past decade excellent methods to prepare such polymers, my stay there helped me to learn the proper techniques and tricks for dealing with the TERP polymerization (in particular all the air-free methods and photochemical reaction conditions). The result was particularly interesting, since the TERP polymerization is until today the best method to control the molecular weight of such polymers.

This positive experience in Japan was a good opportunity for me to discover another environment, culture and meet people with different backgrounds. I was very impressed by the kindness of people, and I would like to acknowledge all the new friends I made there for the good-shared time and entertainment.

I particularly enjoyed the food, the sake and the beautiful landscapes (gardens). I wish I would have the opportunity again to visit Japan more deeply in the future.

I would like to thank Professor Shigeru Yamago for inviting me in his laboratory, Dr. Yasuyuki Nakamura for all his kind supervision, Ms. Saori Takami for taking care of my administrative paperwork and all the lab members.

