

Report of Short-term Exchange Program, Kyoto University

Institute of Chemical Research, Professor Tosaka (Yamago group)

Alice Gros (France), November 2014

In the context of my PhD thesis, I spent one month at Kyoto University for experiments and scientific discussion with Professor Tosaka in Yamago Laboratory. My thesis on modelization of strain-induced crystallization of natural rubber deals with various notions in different fields, including thermodynamical aspects. We had skype meetings before the stay, and since Professor Tosaka is very renowned in this field and has a wide knowledge about crystallization, and I was interested in having more discussions with him about this aspect in order to have a better modelization of the phenomenon. There is also an experimental X-ray apparatus at the Institute with special arrangement for making temperature-controlled experiments, which allowed to have experimental results helping the understanding of strain-induced crystallization and feeding my model. Even if discussing about topics which were not specifically our specialities could have been difficult sometimes, I think that we both could exchange knowledge, points of view and new ideas for our respective works. Experimental results were also interesting and should help to prepare new ones for a future exchange.

My stay was short but I had some opportunities to talk with the other students and professors of the laboratory. I am very grateful for their warm welcome, and especially thankful to Professor Tosaka who took care of everything during my stay. I could also enjoy Japanese food and landscapes, beautiful autumn leaves and it made me love Kyoto more than before. I believe that this stay was an important step for further exchanges and I hope that we will be able to keep on feeding our respective research with other future discussions.

