A short–term stay in the group of Prof. Norihiro Tokitoh at the ICR (Kyoto University)

Dr. Ulrich F. J. Mayer
Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University (UK)

My 30-day stay in the group of Prof. Tokitoh at the ICR (Kyoto University) is connected to a previous visit (2011-2012), where I carried out research as a post-doctoral research fellow.

Since then, the focus of my work has shifted from synthetic organic/inorganic/main group chemistry to applications of molecular compounds in advanced materials, such as e.g. energy and information storage devices as well as solar cells. Currently, I work as a postdoctoral research assistant in the Molecular Engineering group led by Prof. J. M. Cole at the Cavendish Laboratory (Cambridge University).

In my capacity as a senior research assistant in Prof. Cole’s group, one of my main tasks is to generate a significant part of the group’s scientific output. In parallel, I serve as the managing director of an independent scientific editing service (www.mayerscientificediting.com). These positions have given me the opportunity to train my scientific writing skills in English to a relatively high level.

This skill set is particularly important in modern scientific research, as competition for publication slots in high-impact journals is fierce and as publications are usually required to be written in English.

My visit in Prof. Tokitoh’s group allowed me to give several talks on practical considerations regarding the preparation of scientific manuscripts in English. These interactive talks were designed for the benefit of both established academics, as well as for undergraduate and postgraduate students. My stay culminated in a plenary lecture, which I had the honour to give on account of the 10th anniversary of the Organoelement Chemistry Seminar, which was held at the ICR on June 8th 2015.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to Prof. Tokitoh for allowing me to visit his group for a second time. Moreover, I would like to thank all his group members, especially Prof. Takahiro Sasamori, for their kind and generous hospitality. Furthermore, I would like to thank the ICR (Kyoto University) for its generous financial support of my visit.

I hope my stay will result in the continuation of this collaboration, which will hopefully provide good training opportunities for staff and students of Kyoto University to improve their scientific writing skills in English.