

## **Report on completion of the short-stay study abroad program**

School and Dept.: High Energy Accelerator, Materials Structure Science

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Destination country: Germany

Receiving univ./institute: GOETHE UNIVERSITAT FRANKFURT AM MAIN

Period of study: 2/10/2009 – 5/11/2009

Date of report: 5/1/2010

### **A general description of the receiving university/institute:**

I was invited by Prof. Ivan Dikic, group leader of the molecular signaling group at the Biochemistry department, Goethe University in Frankfurt, which is one of the reputable universities in Germany standing beside the Main River.

I arrive early in the morning and met the laboratory researches; they were very friendly, helpful and kind all the way. The Institute of Biochemistry is located in the vicinity of the University hospital (UNIVERSITAT CLINIQUUM), so I felt happy that I will get the best medical care in case of injuries or illness, and the institute was 30 minutes walk from the down town area.

### **Preparation before leaving Japan**

I knew about the short-study abroad program from the SOKENDAI website as well as from a friend who also applied one year before I did. I was motivated by the idea that I need to provide my thesis with more detailed biochemical results using techniques not available in my laboratory. Things went easier because the host was our collaborator on my PhD project. So as soon as I knew about FY2009 I applied for it with the help of my supervisor, submitted the application along with the invitation letters from the receiving institute. I managed to handle visa procedures in about two weeks after the receiving professor send them some confirmation documents they asked for.

### **Study and/or research during the stay**

I purpose of my travel was to conduct research and to collect results to include it in my thesis. I was ready with a research plan, and the facility in the receiving institute was more than adequate. To catch up with the kind of experiment I had to read articles and papers about the techniques because they were new to me, and the students and researcher there were always helping me in a very gentle and patient way.

In Germany most of the people and very well speak English, so I did not find any hard times to communicate in the university or even in the city of Frankfurt.

### **Activities other than study or research during the stay**

One of my favorite hobbies is walking, so I went sight seeing mainly on foot and sometimes using the tram which is a really convenient (not cheap though) transportation. In Frankfurt there is a small district call Römer (old city), which is full

of cultural events every weekends as well as the city hall, many museums , Marktplatz (former Market Square), the Kaiserdom (Emperor Cathedral), Paulskirche (Church of St Paul). Around those places are the very tall skyscrapers with their beautiful reflections on the Main River. Also trying German food was interesting mainly sausages and delicious bakeries.

**Language at the receiving university/institute**

English was enough to communicate in and outside the university, there was no problem with that.

**Things you found difficult (if any)**

none

**Advice for future applicants**

Always give yourself enough time in advance for preparing. And try to search for more than one hotel before you leave.