

A Report on the Research for Better Life Quality: Symposium on Flow Based Analysis 2009 in Chiang Mai, Thailand

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On April 23-24, 2009, the “Research for Better Life Quality: Symposium on Flow Based Analysis 2009” was held in Chiang Mai University (CMU). This symposium was organized by Chiang Mai Flow Based Analysis (FBA) Research Group (The leader of this group is Prof. Kate Grudpan.) under the auspices of the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) and the Thailand Research Fund (TRF).

An opening session was started with Prof. Kate Grudpan’s introduction of the objectives of the Symposium and brief on progress of the project, “Research for Better Life Quality” granted by CHE. Following this, Japanese members of Japanese Association of Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA) (including Prof. Shoji Motomizu, the past president of JAFIA) who have contributed to the progress of analytical chemistry for many years shared experiences on their works to the Symposium. Prof. Motomizu was presented a plate for an honor in his contributions to flow based analysis until his 65 years old. Also, the invited speakers from Japan were presented tokens (the plate of CMU). Now I display it in my office.

In the Symposium, there were plenary and invited lectures:

Plenary- “What Is Analytical Chemistry? What Is the Role of Analytical Chemistry in Better Life?” by Shoji Motomizu (Okayama University); Invited lectures-“Analysis of ACE Inhibiting Activity by FIA” by Hiroyuki Ukeda and Tomoko Shimamura (Kochi University), “Flow Based Breath Analysis for Better Life Quality” by Norio Teshima and Tadao Sakai (Aichi Institute of Technology), and “Development of Fully Automated Continuous Monitoring FIA System for Ammonium Ion in Industrial Waste Brine Samples” by Keiro Higuchi (Ogawa & Co., Ltd.). There were oral presentations for highlighting posters by students and contributors. The discussion was made at the posters. The oral presentations and discussion were held in English. I was surprised and impressed at the regal student’s presentation in English. I would like very much to encourage my students to experience for such a chance in similar symposium. During the presentations, coffee breaks and lunch were arranged. Particularly, the lunch menu was very nice for me. At the end of the Symposium, “Round table discussion on the formation of Thailand Association for Flow Based Analysis” was held. In this discussion, all participants (including the Japan colleagues) have active



Invited lecture by Prof. Ukeda



From the left side: Prof. Ukeda, Prof. Motomizu,
Dr. Teshima, Dr. Shimamura, Dr. Higuchi and Prof. Grudpan

exchange of views. As a result, this topic is discussed continuously as a future issue.

There were Satellite Workshops, the Satellite Workshop I : Flow-based Instrumentation (April 23 ,15:00-17:00) consisted of 3 lectures before demonstrating the instruments and discussion: “Automated Flow Chemical Analysis System and Its Use for Improvement of Chemical Analyses” by Shoji Motomizu (Okayama University),”Simple Flow Analyzer” by Jaroon Jakmunee (CMU), and “Simple Lab on a Chip” by Kate Grudpan (CMU)

The other Satellite Workshops were held on April 24 and preformed in Thai language: Satellite Workshop II: Research impacted to local communities for better life quality and Satellite Workshop III: Experiences in management in Chemistry studies/research in Thai institutions.

After the symposium and during waiting for our flight time, we enjoyed wonderful meals and experiences in Chiang Mai. Of course, we did not forgot “analytical chemistry”, “flow based analysis”, “better life quality” and so on, even at the time of drinking beer!!

I noticed that the Symposium encouraged younger generations to engage academics and research in easy going atmosphere and this strengthens the collaboration the Thai and Japanese who have been interested in flow based analysis, through JAFIA links.

Finally, I would like to thank the organizers (including the students) for a memorable event.



Delightful dinner with beer



Main gate of Chiang Mai University