

A Report on the 19th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis and Related Techniques held in Fukuoka, Japan

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The 19th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis and Related Techniques or 19th ICFIA was held at Across Fukuoka building, Fukuoka, Japan, during 30th November – 5th December, 2014. The conference was organized by the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA) and co-organized by the Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry (JSAC), the Kyushu Branch of JSAC, the Kyushu Branch of the Chemical Society of Japan and Organization for Promotion Academic City of Kyushu University. There was an International Steering Committee and a local Organizing Committee. The chairperson of this conference was Prof. Toshihiko Imato from Kyushu University.

The program began with registration in front of the meeting room. Japanese Hakata dolls were presented as souvenir. Prof. Imato gave a welcome speech to all participants, followed by a welcome reception with plenty of Japanese food and beer. The welcome party was carried out in an informal atmosphere. We enjoyed sharing our experiences and discussing our research work.

The academic session commenced on the morning of 1st December 2014 with Prof. Imato's opening remark. The objectives of the conference, important schedule and some of attractions Fukuoka were briefly presented. This was followed by a history of Talanta, JFIA and ICFIA given by Prof. Gary D. Christian (University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA), who had initiated the first ICFIA in 1989. There were altogether about 66 oral presentations including invited speakers and special sessions for young scientists.



Oral presentation from young scientist

Poster sessions commenced after lunch break. There were more than one hundred posters in English, with topics

such as sample preparation, separation methods, detection devices, recording procedures and their applications. It was a good opportunity for me to exchange some ideas on the fabrication of ion selective electrodes, electrochemical detection and modern colorimetric detection. Moreover, it was a good opportunity to make new friends with participants, not only from other countries but also from Thailand. The conference ended with oral presentations by Duangjai Nacapricha (Mahidol University) and Masanobu Mori (Gunma University, Japan) on Friday, 5th December. After a short break, there was the award ceremony for best oral presentations and poster presentations by young researchers. These awards are a motivation to us to improve our research quality.

Beside academic activities, social activities were also organized. In the middle of the conference, we had a one day excursion outside Fukuoka by bus. The first stop was Hita, which is a city located southeast of Fukuoka. The beautiful village in Japanese style with traditional crafts is a tourist attraction. Next, we went to Sapporo Beer Garden for a lunch. Here, we took a group photo with everyone happily smiling. Then, we traveled to Beppu, which is a very famous natural hot springs. Each spouting hole has different salt composition which can be seen by their different colors.

In keeping with the tradition of ICFIA, JFIA announces the annual FIA Award for Science and FIA Award for Young Researcher. This year, FIA Award for Science was presented to Dr. Jianhua Wang (Northeastern University, China) and to Dr. Aristidis Anthemidis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece). The FIA Award for Young Researcher was presented to 6 researchers, as shown in the picture below.



From left: Dr. Nuanlaor Ratanawimarnwong, Dr. Weena Siangproh, Dr. Andrey Vasil'evich Bulatov, Dr. Petr Chocholouš, Dr. Akhmad Sabarudin, Dr. Burkhard



Dr. Sumonmarn Chan-Eam and Prof. T. Imato

Horstkotte and Prof. T. Imato

I would like to thank the organizers, including students and staffs for this impressive conference. The DPST Research Grant (017/2557) from the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology, Thailand and the research fund from the Faculty of Science, Silpakorn University are gratefully acknowledged. Finally, I would like to thank the beautiful pictures taken by Mr. Eakkasit Punrat, Miss Piyawan Phansi and ICFIA staffs.

(<http://jafia.kyushu-u.ac.jp/ICFIA2014/photo.html>)

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Memorable picture of participants at Sapporo Beer Garden, taken by Mr. Eakkasit Punrat