

INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE FELLOWSHIPS

Experience Report 2020/2021

Name and title of fellow	Dr. Kazunori Okada, Associate professor of The University of Tokyo, Japan
Duration and time of research stay	From June 23 to September 17
Host professor and host institute at KIT	Prof. Peter Nick, Botanical institute

Testimonial

My research field is
Plant molecular biology, mainly focusing on biosynthesis of secondary metabolites, many of which are unknown in terms of their biological function.
How my research field is going to affect the world of science?
Genetically controlling the production of the secondary methabolites, which reveal some bioactivities, for instance antimicrobial or allelopathic activities, it can be reduced chemical dosage usually use in the agriculture activity. There should be a big impact on eco-friendly agriculture.
My main finding / highlight during my research work at KIT was
Discovery of a potent effect of momilactones, which is rice alleloaphtic and antifugal compound, on tobacco BY-2 cells with deep insjght into the observation of microtuble differentiation during cytokinesis. Establishment of the workflow to analyse plant hormone accumulation by using solid phase extraction & purification and LC-MS detection.
I have chosen the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology because
I have had collaboration for many years with host laboratory and also can extend collabolative activity with other research groups in Strasbourg and Munich for constructing future international multilateral reaserch project.
If you want to, you can give advice to the next fellows. What should they know about Karlsruhe, KIT and the International Excellence Fellowships program?
It should be better to carefully consider the timing of visit under such difficult situation. It may be very difficult to meet someone and talk face to face, but make use of on line system as much as possible and do not miss any chance to communicate with researchers in KIT in any way.