

1st ASRC International workshop “New approach to the exotic phases of actinides compounds under unconventional experimental conditions”

Shinsaku Kambe

Research Group for Condensed Matter Physics of Heavy Elements Systems

This workshop was held as the first ASRC international workshop at ASRC on February 16-18, 2010. It was indeed lucky to be able to hold the workshop before the Great East Japan Earthquake. The main purpose of this workshop was to meet together for the researchers participated into the “REIMEI” Research Project entitled “New approach to the exotic phases of actinides compounds under unconventional experimental conditions”, which have been adopted in FY2010 and also continuously in FY2011. Another purpose is the scientific discussions about their recent findings and the joint research plan for the future. As chairmen of the workshop, Dr. Lander and I served. Dr. Lander is the head of this project and a highly distinguished researcher in the actinide science, belonging to Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL), Grenoble, France. The participants from foreign countries were 13 (US, GB, Germany, France, Italy, and Brazil), and about 25 from Japan, in total, about 40 people.

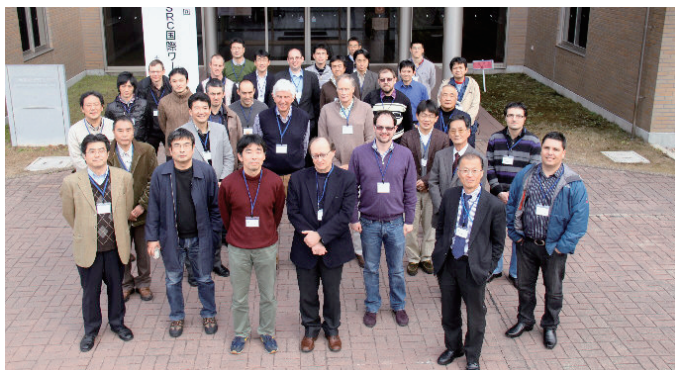
A recent result of each laboratory was presented in the first place, and extracted current problems to be clarified. Afterwards, the participants were divided into three groups i.e., neutron and X-rays scattering group, material development group, and NMR group. We spent enough time for the round-table discussions in the each group. Since all

participants in this workshop were specialists on f-electron systems, and we already had a lot of joint researches up to now, intensive discussions could be possible from the beginning. The discussed subjects were: 1) Experiments under extreme conditions (high pressure the under and high magnetic field) in ILL and European Synchrotron Radiation Facilities (ESRF) in the future, 2) New joint researches in newly discovered superconductor PuCoIn₅ at the Los Alamos National laboratory, 3) Material developments of transuranium compounds.

Usually, it is not easy to have fruitful discussion about such a workshop; however, a lot of participants have an impression of having successful ones owing to the focused themes. Emeritus Professor at Tohoku University, Yasuo Endoh (chairman of the neutron scattering session) told us “I was impressed that the level of actinide basic researches at ASRC is quite high. Continue in this direction for future” All we are encouraged by his statement.

The workshop banquet was opened at the hotel in Mito that had been used for the accommodations for foreigners. The banquet was planned to be a standing buffet party. However, sooner or later, everybody found and brought the surrounding chairs around tables. Finally we enjoyed conversations entirely with being seated around the tables.

The same workshop of FY2011 has already been decided to be held at ILL, Grenoble, France. Here, it is scheduled to return to the original name of workshop “REIMEI Workshop”. A lot of members are planning to participate from Japan, and I am also helping management as a chairman. Fortunately, I will stay in Grenoble University as invited professor in that period. From the viewpoint of internationalization of JAEA, I think holding the workshop with the name of “REIMEI” in a famous overseas laboratory, like ILL, to be joyful to us. By the way, after the local organizers in Grenoble have recognized the meaning of “REIMEI” (=Dawn in Japanese), they use this word with pleasure.



The participants of the workshop (Author, the third from the left in the front line)