

Research Report JSPS BRIDGE
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This visit was motivated by three aspects: 1) Enhancement of the research collaborations already established between the laboratory of the ENSC-Rennes and the University of Kyoto and Osaka city; 2) Broadening of the research network in Japan in the carbohydrate chemistry field; and 3) Enhancement of the collaboration with Tohoku University about student exchange partnerships.

We recently started a collaboration with both the groups of the Prof. Yorimitsu (Kyoto) and Prof. Nishimura (Osaka City) about the synthesis of glycoamphiphiles taking advantage of our synergistic expertise in both catalysis and carbohydrate chemistry. During my stay in Japan we have jointly designed and we started the synthesis of new glycoconjugates. Now few new compounds are available in my lab in France. Therefore, we started to finish the synthesis and hope to engage soon these amphiphiles in the subsequent evaluations in biological and physicochemical assays.

This visit in Japan was also the occasion to spend more time with other groups in several other universities. We focused on carbohydrate related research groups such as Prof Fukase (Osaka University), Prof. Nokami (Tottori University), Prof. Fujimoto (Keio University), Dr. Tanaka (RIKEN, Wako) for instance. Each time, very interesting discussions have opened new opportunities of collaboration that might be materialized in a near future.

In addition to research related activities, the visit at Tohoku University (Prof. Iwamoto) permitted to enhance university collaborations. The ENSC-Rennes and Tohoku University have already a MOU agreement that facilitates student exchanges for instance. Recently Tohoku University has opened several programs for foreign students. From now two students from the ENSC-Rennes already applied to the COLABS program.

In conclusion, thanks to the JSPS BRIDGE program, the almost 4 weeks I spent in Japan were very fruitful both in terms of research and of university partnerships. We are now converting our discussions into a long-term collaboration.