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Kazuya Ando's ON and OFF time

The Ando lab was set up in April 2013.

Here's a retrospective account of the path I and my lab have followed.



Birthday

Between spring and summer of 2008, when I was in the second year of my master's course, Theo (at right side of photo), then a Cambridge University postdoctoral researcher, was staying with our lab. The photo was taken on the occasion of his birthday that the lab members celebrated. At the time, I was working with Theo in experiments on semiconductor's spin current using optics. I'm sure English I used when discussing with Theo was terrible, but he was patient enough to communicate with me somehow, which is a dear memory now. The person in a black shirt at the center of the photo is Mr. Nakayama, who is now playing an active role as a specially-appointed assistant professor at my lab.



England

After obtaining a doctor's degree at Keio, I transferred as an assistant professor to the Saito lab at Tohoku University. In those days, I visited England relying on

Theo and engaged in a joint experiment there as shown in this photo. Although that experiment itself didn't make good progress as expected, I was rewarded with new acquaintances, which led to subsequent research projects.



Joint research

Shown in the photo is Mr. Shunichiro Watanabe, who was then active as a postdoctoral researcher at Cambridge. I met him during my stay in England and he was kind enough to take me around London over the weekend. Although joint experiment with Mr. Watanabe didn't happen while I was in England, we could discuss the possibility of a new research theme. After coming back to Sendai, both of us moved forward with our joint research.



Sendai

As a fourth-year undergraduate student of Keio, I joined the newly born Saito lab as its first-generation member. Although its establishment was only in 2006, the lab grew into a big one as shown in this photo by 2012, one year before I left Tohoku University.



Independence

In April 2013, I returned as a teacher to Keio's Department of Applied Physics and Physico-Informatics, from which I had graduated. I was to start anew from

a new lab which was as empty as the lab I once belonged to as a fourth-year undergraduate. The photo above shows the lab as it appeared at time of my arrival at my post, and below is how it looked three months later.



Moving equipment

I review the lab layout from time to time because new pieces of experimental equipment were brought in recently. The photo is one scene of moving equipment; some students are silently at work making preparations while others are chatting with each other waiting for the moving to be completed.

Welcome party

After 2015 set in, Mr. Amine (an overseas student from France) and Mr. An (a postdoc researcher from China) joined our lab, bringing an international atmosphere to our lab. Proposed by some students, we held a welcome party for the two members at a okonomi-yaki restaurant where you can cook your own serving by yourself.

