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Mingling with young Chinese and Japanese researchers

I participated as a member of the Japanese delegation to the "1st China-Japan Joint Symposium for Young Polymer Scientists" held in Xi'an, China, in October of 2019. It was an amazing opportunity to get firsthand insight into China's high level of research that has been making headlines across a variety of fields.



Presentation of research results.



A reception with Chinese presenters and hosts
On the right is Professor Zhang Xi, the chairperson of the organization.

Promoting and raising awareness of chemistry

I have been an active organizing member in the Chemical Society of Japan's "CSJ Chemistry Festa," which aims to deepen exchanges between industry, academia, and government; the Chemistry Daisuki Club for elementary and junior high school students; and other groups for nearly 10 years. The organization hopes to encourage the enjoyment of chemistry within the next generation and promote collaborations between in industry, academia, and government. I personally enjoy gathering at the receptions after committee meetings, talking with researchers from all over the country about various topics, and hearing stories from company insiders behind their popular products.



Yuya Oaki's ON and OFF

Looking to have fun while both "on" and "off"



Research conferences

The JST PRESTO (one of the research programs of the Japan Science and Technology Agency) organized discussions at a camp-style research conference. Stretching from early morning to late evening, the event provided a wonderful opportunity to focus on topics at hand through research reports, Q&As, and other discussions. After dinner, there were sessions led by veteran professors who were advisors to the project research which were filled with laughter and personal perspectives on different careers and research. I found it to be a very enlightening experience.

Raising butterflies with my family in the summer

We used to find larvae and keep them until they transformed into butterflies.



When they are in their pupa stage they keep still.



And when their wings have dried, they leave their cocoon behind.

Growing tomatoes and eggplants at home

We were late to plant this year, so it wasn't a good harvest.



The eggplants were delicious.



The tomatoes, on the other hand, were slightly sour and I wish we could have let them ripen more.

A scene of me playing with my daughter



Here we have a tea party set up in a play house attended primarily by pandas (note: this was before COVID-19).

Playtime often involves blocks and toys that can be stacked.

