



1st Instrument Scientist Workshops at AOCNS

The 1st Instrument Scientist Workshops (ISWs) of neutron scattering facilities in Asia-Oceania region were held on Nov. 20, 2011, as a satellite meeting of AOCNS 2011, Tsukuba, Japan. The ISWs were proposed by the Inaugural Asia-Oceania Neutron Facility Directors' Meeting, held on May 20, 2011, in Bandung, Indonesia. The purpose of ISWs is to get benefit from shared knowledge about instrumentation, complementary capabilities at other facilities in the region, etc.

Originally, it was planned to hold a few workshops dealing with typical instruments, such as powder diffractometers and small-angle neutron scattering instruments. However, it turned out to hold eight ISWs covering powder diffraction, single crystal diffraction, small-angle scattering (SANS), reflectivity, triple axis, time-of-flight (TOF), engineering diffractometry, and neutron imaging.

Since these were the first workshops on instruments by instrument scientists, the main objective was to know each other. Each ISW started by self-introduction and address exchange, followed by description of instruments, discussion, etc. For example, the neutron powder diffraction (NPD)-ISW was organized as follows. Discussion time was coordinated for mutual understanding; proposal systems, number of users, topics (crystal, magnetism, batteries, energy-related, polymers, functional materials, *etc.*), sample environments, minimum sample size challenged, *etc.* They agreed to continue the NPD instrument scientist workshop and meet when AsCA'12 (the Asian Crystallographic Association, Dec.2-6, 2012) will be held in Adelaide, Australia as the Bragg centenary. Other ISWs proceeded similarly.

	Instrument workshop	Coordinator(s)	No. Participants	No. Countries/Area	No. instruments reported
1	Powder diffraction	T. Kamiyama, K. Ohyama	23	6	17
2	Single crystal	T. Ohhara, Y. Noda	22	4	7
3	SANS	M. Shibayama, J. Suzuki	27	7	17
4	Reflectometer	H. Seto	23	5	8
5	Triple axis	T.J. Sato, K. Iwasa	18	7	17
6	TOF	K. Nakajima, O. Yamamuro	17	6	8
7	Engineering diffractometer	H. Suzuki	17	6	6
8	Neutron imaging	Y. Kawabata	15	5	2
	total		162	Av. 5.75	82

Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, (France)

Table 1. Statistics of the 1st ISWs

It was a great success to hold workshops on the occasion of AOCNS. Table 1 shows the statistics of 1st ISWs. The numbers of participants and instruments introduced were 162 and 82, respectively. The number of countries/areas is 5.75 in average out of 8 member/observer countries. These numbers are much larger than the expectation of the coordinators, indicating that instrument scientists wish to exchange information about instruments, such as sample environments and accessories, to learn knowhow of data reduction, user programs, etc. Those were really enthusiastic workshops. Most of ISWs agreed to launch mailing list or home page to keep close contact among instrument scientists. It is understood that equal partnership, i.e., equal relationship, equal contributions, and equal benefits is important for good and long standing collaborations. There was only one regrettable thing. The time allotted to the ISW, 3 hours, was too short. It was recommended to have next ISW with longer time.

The 1st ISWs can be summarized as follows: (1) It was the first face-to-face meeting on instruments by instrument scientists. (2) 15 - 27 scientists got together at each ISW and discussed their problems, including upgrades, budget, human resources, etc. (3) The workshop was very meaningful for our instrument scientists to share the knowledge and to have a continuous communication, especially for developing countries. (4) Instrument scientists will keep communication by making mailing list, home page, portal site, and/or uploading the presentation files.



Snap shot of TOF workshop

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