

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We would like to thank you for the messages we have received from across Japan and around the world, expressing your support, encouragement, and help.

On March 11, 2011, 2:46 pm, a massive earthquake (Tohoku Region Pacific Coast Earthquake) occurred and hit Sendai. The earthquake and repeated tsunamis after it has taken a heavy toll on human life along the coast line. Very fortunately, none of the participants of our annual report meeting being held here at the time of the earthquake, either from overseas, CSIS members or associated laboratory members was injured. Our building became a shelter for those who lost transportation means to home; it took two days before the participants from outside Sendai returned to Tokyo, Tsukuba, Nagoya and Osaka.

While our building was left seemingly intact, inside, particularly the laboratories on the 3rd and 4th floors were damaged. Other CSIS sites (Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Tsukuba Satellite Office) were also damaged. We are currently working hard to recover from the damages. We are carefully proceeding step-by-step to make the office and laboratory rooms as earthquake proof as possible. This is particularly needed in view of the aftershocks. We hope that we will be making and measuring samples again within a few months.

The radiation level in Sendai is low, below the worldwide average background. One can see the results of monitoring the level on campus, at Tohoku University web page (<http://www.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/anzen/monitoring/english.html>). Once the situation at Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant is under control, we plan to organize an international workshop on spintronics in Sendai. We are also organizing 2011 Spintronics Workshop on LSI as a satellite workshop of 2011 VLSI Symposia in Kyoto on June 13, 2011 (<http://www.vlssymposium.org/satellite.html>). Kyoto is more than 700 km away from the epicenter of the earthquake and unaffected. I sincerely hope you decide to join us on these future occasions.

Again, many thanks for your kind support, encouragement and help.

Hideo Ohno

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