4 Establishment of Condensed Matter Research Center at the IMSS

At the Institute of Material Structure Science (IMSS), we pursue cutting-edge research in a wide range of research fields by producing advanced quantum beams, such as synchrotron radiation, neutron beams, and muon beams, which have been developed in accordance with the evolution of particle accelerators. Our mission is to optimize the experimental apparatuses/measuring systems and provide them to many researchers at universities and other research institutes. In addition, it is very important for the institute members to carry out leading-edge research in the related research fields. For this purpose the Structural Biology Research Center (SBRC) was established at the IMSS, and this has worked successfully.

The research environment at the IMSS is currently undergoing large changes. New research using the world's most intense neutron and muon beams have just begun at J-PARC. The 2.5 GeV PF and the 6.5 GeV PF-AR rings have been strategically improved by the introduction of short-gap undulators in the straight sections of the storage rings and the rearrangement of the beamlines. On this occasion it is timely to establish a Condensed Matter Research Center (CMRC), the framework for which has been discussed for several years. The CMRC was established on April 1st, 2009. The two centers at IMSS, SBRC and CMRC, will lead advanced achievements in the life and materials sciences, and strengthen the presence of the IMSS in the world of natural science.

The mission of the CMRC is to pursue cutting-edge research and be a center of excellence in the materials structure science fields by the comprehensive use of multi-probes (synchrotron radiation, neutron and muon beams etc.), and also to foster close collaborations with many researchers at universities and other institutes around the world. The CMRC (Director: Youichi Murakami) is established under the IMSS director (Osamu Shimomura). An advisory committee has been set up to give scientific counsel and to evaluate performance. The following important fields are promoted in the CMRC: strongly correlated electron systems, surfaces and interfaces, soft matter, and matter under extreme conditions. Research projects will be driven by collaborations with leading domestic and international researchers. Interdisciplinary subjects will also be pursued and developed at the CMRC.

Figure 1
Commemorative photograph taken at the IMSS symposium '08, the kick-off meeting of the Condensed Matter Research Center. The symposium was held on October 16-17th, 2008.