

若手研究者インターナショナル・トレーニング・プログラム(ITP)

バイオインフォマティクスとシステムズバイオロジーの国際連携教育研究プログラム 報告書

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Report: I have participated in the “International workshop in Bioinformatics and Systems Biology” (IBSB), held in 18-20, July, 2011, Berlin; and the following Summer School, 21-22, July, 2011. This was my first visit to Berlin, and there were quite a few nice places in Berlin to walk through (But it was a bad luck for me that Berliner Philharmoniker was taking their summer vacation). On the other hand, something soon turned out to be quite different from other cities in Germany, and in Europe: For example, Berlin citizens seemed less familiar with or indifferent to many sightseeing spots in Berlin. Later, one of the participants in the workshop (who is a pure Berliner) have told me that such a situation have something to do with the sombre history of the city. In the workshop I have presented a rough summary of my studies entitled “Biophysical Information Entropies and their Non-Decreasingness”, which seems to be extremely mathematics-oriented but poorly biologically applicable. However, it was a good experience to encounter some persons interested in such an approach from that kind of respect; and some of them gave me useful suggestions for possible biological applications, which I have not expected. While attending the workshop (perhaps not only) I have noticed that Japanese participants (especially, students) seem less likely to be educated in English presentations, compared with those from US and Germany. Of course we Japanese cannot help feeling our disadvantages in English speaking; On the other hand, many things should be improved in our attitudes not only in preparations for presentations, but also toward daily discussions, and self-training in Japan. In the following summer school I have enjoyed some lecture topics and practices on computers; and also, I’ve found something we can learn from the attitudes of foreign (mainly German) audiences toward these lessons, willing to make much more discussions and questions than Japanese do. During the stay in Berlin I could successfully make many friends with foreign students and researchers not only from Germany and US, but also from Brazil, Russia, Romania, ... , and so on, and spent a lot of time making very much meaningful discussions in science and technology, culture, nature, philosophy, politics, ... , etc. However, it was a quite pitiful thing to hear that many foreign people have the common feeling that the rest of Japanese visitors seem to hesitate to be mixed with foreign participants. One of the reasons (again) seems to be our feeling of disadvantages in English speaking, but the main cause seems to be our fundamental attitude toward such opportunities to communicate with foreign people that Japanese people tend to have as less discussions as possible. I felt such an attitude should also be improved in the future.