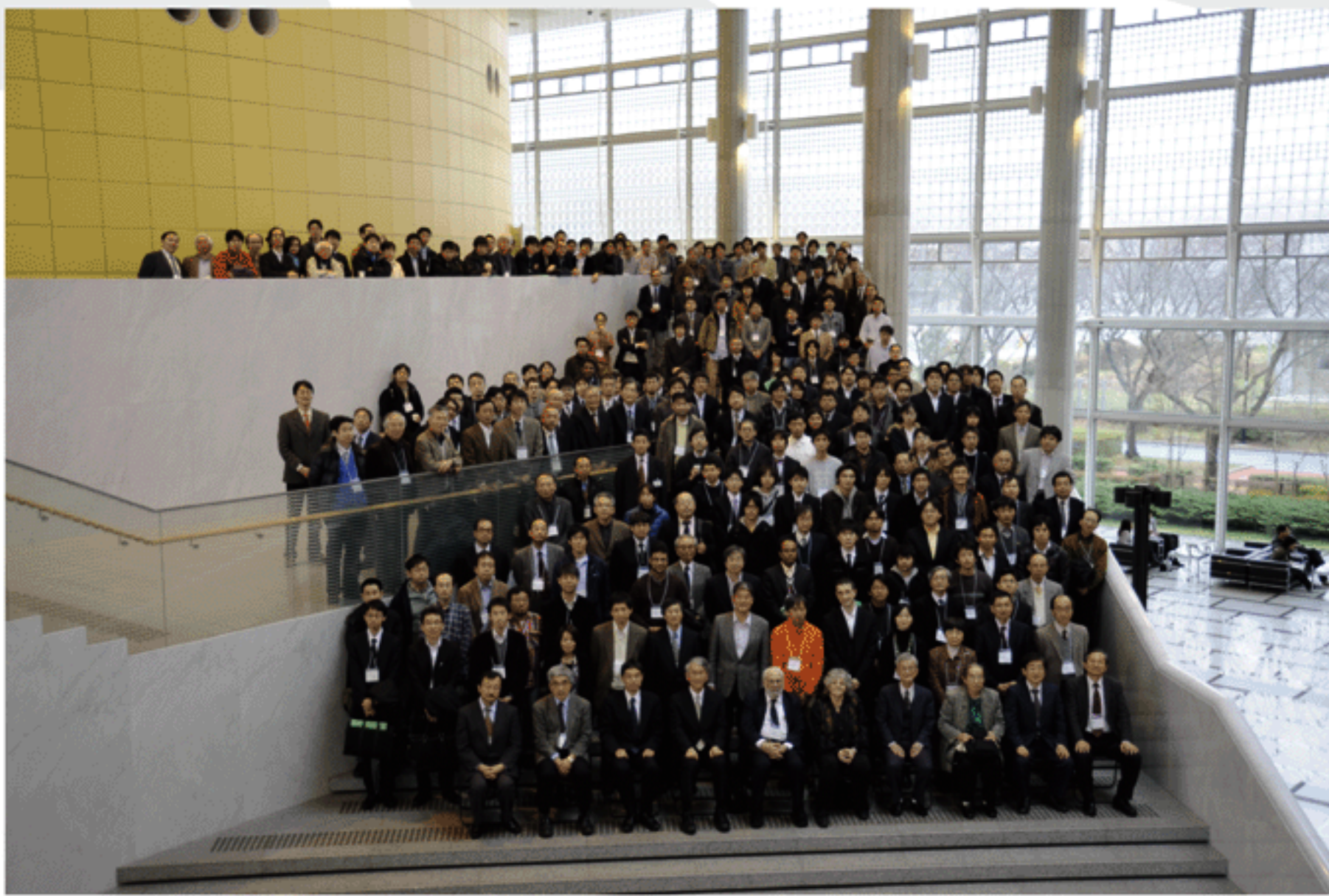


PHOTON FACTORY, IMSS, KEK



This is our first facility information page about the Photon Factory (PF), Institute of Materials Structure Science (IMSS), High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), in Japan. Our activities cover a very wide spectrum of science and engineering fields such as physics, chemistry, materials science, environmental science, earth science, biology and medicine. The number of experimental stations is 53 serving more than 3000 unique users including 1400 Ph.D. students each year.

As the first topic, we mention the PF Symposium held on March 9-10, 2010. This annual users meeting was held at the Tsukuba International Congress Center located at the central area of Tsukuba city (see the picture below). As many as 405 participants, which was the largest so far, more than doubled from the numbers until several years ago, gathered and shared latest science results and technology developments. In particular, we were very pleased to welcome two special foreign guest speakers, Prof. Herman Winick from SLAC, USA and Prof. Ada Yonath from Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel.



The second topic is about Prof. Ada Yonath who received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with the other two scientists for their work on the structure and function of ribosome. It is our greatest honor and pleasure that she was one of the main users in the early period of the PF for ten years from 1987. She brought her newly developed cryogenic system to the PF to use it with the Weisenberg camera in her heroic efforts to solve the ribosome structure. She left the cryogenic system with Prof. Noriyoshi Sakabe who developed the Weisenberg camera at the PF for other users' and her experiments. At the occasion of this PF symposium, she was awarded an Honorary Supreme Professorship of KEK for her outstanding achievements. She very kindly accepted our request of an interview (her photograph on the left) and told us her exciting stories of the ribose research. *(To see the transcript,*

please visit "<http://www.kek.jp/intra-e/feature/2010/PFandProfYonath.html>".)

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