



# JSPS Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers Global Networking on Molecular Technology Research

## 【Vol.1】 Report from Yutaka Ie

In this first report, I briefly introduce MPI-P, Mainz, and my life in Germany. MPI-P is one of the top research institutes in the field of polymer science, which was found in 1983 on the campus of the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. MPI-P has six working groups of scientific researches. I have joined “Molecular Electronics” group, which is organized by Prof. Paul Blom. This group is composed of almost 50 members, including director (Paul), project leaders, technical members, and Ph.D students.



Mainz is the capital of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and has extensively developed as religious city since 8<sup>th</sup> century. In terms of culture, this city is famous for the invention of the first printed books, which was manufactured by Gutenberg in 1455. In the winter season, the temperature of Mainz is lower than that of Osaka and it sometimes snows here. In February, big Carnival is held in Mainz. Most people wear the fancy-dress and enjoy several fancy-decorated parades, which create an enthusiastic atmosphere in the whole Mainz. In Mainz, we have a famous football club, FSV Mainz 05. We can find two Japanese players, Okazaki and Muto, in the past and current members. Since the stadium of FSV Mainz 05 is close to MPI-P (10 min by walk), we can easily watch the game! When the game is held, the office in MPI-P always sends us an e-mail to notify that the significant congestion is expected.





Now, I live in Frankfurt with my family, since we could not find Japanese elementary school and kindergarten for our children in Mainz. Frankfurt belongs to Hessen state. The distance between Frankfurt and Mainz is almost 40 km, and it takes 40 min by S-bahn train. Interestingly, holiday in Mainz is not always holiday in Frankfurt, because holiday is defined by the state. For example, Carnival day is holiday in Mainz, while it is weekday in Frankfurt!!



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