

## The 16th International Symposium on Organic Reactions in Japan

**Date:** November 18–24, 2025

**Location:** Okayama University, Okayama, Japan

**Presenter:** Hung-Hsuan Chiu



In November 2025, I had the valuable opportunity to attend the 16th International Symposium on Organic Reactions (ISOR-16), held at Okayama University in Japan. This was my first time participating in an international academic conference abroad, and the experience was both academically inspiring and culturally enriching.

During the conference, I attended various oral and poster presentations delivered by researchers from different groups in Japan and Taiwan. Through these talks, I gained a deeper understanding of current research trends in organic chemistry, particularly in the areas of reaction design and catalytic methodologies. The conference not only broadened my academic perspective but also helped me appreciate how fundamental research can be connected to practical and innovative applications.

One of the most rewarding aspects of ISOR-16 was the opportunity to interact with students and researchers from Japan. I had several meaningful conversations with Japanese graduate students, during which we exchanged ideas about our research topics, laboratory cultures, and academic life. These interactions allowed me to better understand the research environment in Japan and highlighted both the similarities and

differences compared to my own academic experience. Communicating in English in an international setting also strengthened my confidence and improved my ability to express scientific ideas clearly.



Beyond the academic sessions, this trip offered many memorable experiences outside the conference. I had the chance to visit Kurashiki, known for its beautifully preserved historical streets and canals, as well as explore Okayama City. These visits allowed me to appreciate Japan's unique blend of tradition and modernity. In addition, enjoying local Japanese cuisine, such as regional specialties and traditional dishes, was an important part of the cultural experience and made the trip even more enjoyable.

Overall, attending ISOR-16 at Okayama University was an unforgettable experience. It not only enhanced my academic knowledge and international outlook but also provided valuable cultural exposure and personal growth. This experience has further motivated me to actively participate in international conferences in the future and to pursue research with a broader, global perspective.

Hung-Hsuan (Jason) Chiu

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