

Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Retinal Proteins held at Awaji Island, Hyogo, Japan on 4–8 June 2006

Introduction

The papers in a special section of this issue of Photochemistry and Photobiology were presented at the 12th International Conference on retinal proteins. This Conference is held every other year and the meeting place moves around the globe. The 2006 meeting was held on Awaji Island, on the Inland Sea and close to Kobe and Osaka. The meeting was deemed by all who attended a great success with exciting science being presented and with a good atmosphere to foster informal interactions among the participants. In all more than 250 people attended from 17 different countries. There were 15 symposia and more than 120 posters during the 4 days of the meeting. Labora-

tories working on visual pigments from both vertebrates and invertebrates, retinal proteins from Archaea and newly discovered retinal proteins from fungi, algae and eubacteria all presented their new findings. Both formal and informal discussions of recent results led many attending to make new acquaintances and start new collaborations. An especially encouraging fact was the large number of graduate students and postdoctorates attending the Conference.

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Chair of the Organizing Committee