

March 30, 2009

AGC establishes an endowed research department in the Institute for
Chemical Research of Kyoto University

Kyoto University

AGC Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

AGC (Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.; Head Office: Tokyo; President & COO: Kazuhiko Ishimura) decided to make an endowment to the Institute for Chemical Research of Kyoto University (Director: Professor Norihiro Tokitoh) to establish an endowed research department called the “Water Chemistry Energy (AGC) Research Department” on April 1, 2009.

In this research department, we will pursue experimental study which is necessary for making use of the basics of research in water chemistry reactions and developing technology for reactions which produce clean hydrogen energy, with the aim of drastically reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses and carbon dioxide, which cause global warming.

Outline of the endowed research department

Name: Water Chemistry Energy (AGC) Research Department

Location: Inside the Institute for Chemical Research of Kyoto University (Uji Campus)

Benefactor: Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

Duration: From April 2009 to March 2012 (for three years)

Expected amount of endowment: 20 million yen for three years

Teaching supervisor in charge: Professor Masaru Nakahara, D.Sc.(specializes in physical chemistry)

Associate Professor Yasuo Tsujino, M.Sc. (specializes in physical chemistry)

Purpose of research

Modern civilization is heavily dependent on fossil fuels as its energy source, and unless we reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses, which may trigger climate change, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, which was ratified in 1997, there is a possibility that we will face a crisis affecting the global environment. We believe that it would be beneficial for us, under such circumstances, to newly establish a department within Kyoto University to solve environmental energy problems innovatively in protecting the global environment and developing education and research together with society.

Details of research

1. Technology for immobilizing and preserving carbon dioxide in a form of liquid formic acid which is stable at room temperature by coupling it with hydrogen.
2. Technology for using formic acid as an artificial fuel.

Research topic

In order to contribute to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and make efforts to solve global warming, which are important research topics in the current century, we will make use of the results of basic research in the new reaction group, which was found in water at high temperature and high pressure that includes supercritical water, and work on research topics in water chemistry that will enable us to develop artificial fuel and energy.

© For further information regarding this issue, please contact Toshihiro Ueda, GM of Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, **AGC** Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

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