

■ News

International symposium on Structure and Dynamics of Photosynthetic Systems

Okayama University held the "Structure and Dynamics of Photosynthetic Systems" symposium at the 50th Anniversary Hall 22–23 October 2012 to highlight the university's internationally recognized 60 year-old research on photosynthetic systems with roots going back to the founding of the modern structure of the University 60 years ago.

Twenty prominent researchers from Japan and other countries described their research on areas including the structures of photosynthetic systems and hydrolytic mechanisms, with junior researchers giving poster presentations.

A public seminar on "Solar Energy and Photosynthesis" was held on 21st October 2012, just before the symposium. Nathan Nelson, professor at Tel Aviv University, Israel, and a global authority on research into photosynthesis, and Jian-Ren Shen, professor at the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Okayama University (whose research was selected as one of the ten scientific "Breakthroughs of the Year 2011" by the US journal *Science*) both explained the mechanisms underlying photosynthesis and potential artificial applications to members the general public.

This was first international symposium/public seminar held by Okayama University on photosynthesis. The University plans to become an international research hub for research on photosynthesis.



Professor Nathan Nelson from Tel Aviv University, Israel (center) and Professor Jian-Ren Shen, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Okayama University (right) answering questions at the public seminar.