

The Seasonal Institute of the Mathematical Society of Japan

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The aim of the conference series “Seasonal Institute” is to obtain an overview of the significant recent developments in a specific subject, and to present it especially to young researchers in Japan, as well as in Asian countries. For this purpose, we invite leading mathematicians of the field from all over the world, as well as promising young researchers from Asian countries to MSJ Seasonal Institutes.

The MSJ Seasonal Institute is held every year and its subject is chosen by the Scientific Committee of the Mathematical Society of Japan. This is a succession of our conference series MSJ-IRI (Mathematical Society of Japan, International Research Institute). We had 15 successful conferences in 14 years from 1993 to 2006, and our idea is to continue the conference in the same spirit, but also to contribute mathematical communities outside Japan.

We publish the outcome of each MSJ Seasonal Institute as a volume of Advanced Study in Pure Mathematics which will give a good reference of the developments in the chosen specific subject and contribute the developments of mathematics. This continues the tradition of MSJ-IRI.

This is the volume of Advanced Study in Pure Mathematics which contains the excellent outcome of the first Seasonal Institute of the Mathematical Society of Japan, “Probabilistic Approach to Geometry” held in Kyoto from the 28th July to the 8th August in 2008. We thank the contributors and the editors of the volume for their collaboration.

The second MSJ-Seasonal Institute “Arrangements of Hyperplanes” was held in Sapporo from the 1st to the 13th August in 2009 and the third MSJ-Seasonal Institute “Development of Galois-Teichmueller theory and anabelian geometry” will be held in Kyoto from 25th to 30th October 2010. The outcomes of these MSJ-Seasonal Institutes follow in the future volumes of Advanced Study in Pure Mathematics.

We are grateful to the precious efforts of the organizers of MSJ-Seasonal Institutes as well as to the warm hospitality of the host institutes. We are sure that publication of the outcomes of MSJ-Seasonal Institutes in Advanced Study in Pure Mathematics contributes the the developments of mathematics.