



Section 1

Applicant (at the time of application, i.e. supervisor of the visiting researcher or the visiting researcher themselves)	
Name	Yusuke Okazaki
Job title	Assistant professor
University	Kyoto University
Affiliation	Institute for Chemical Research

Section 2

Visiting researcher (if different from the above)	
Name	
Job title	
University	
Affiliation	

Section 3

Host researcher	
Name	Andrei Adrian-Stefan
Job title	Group leader
University	University of Zurich
Affiliation	Limnological Station, Department of Plant and Microbial Biology

Section 4

Summary of the project (approx. 200 words)
<p>Lake Biwa, the largest freshwater lake in Japan, has garnered worldwide attention owing to its outstanding research facilities and long-standing tradition of freshwater research. As the flagship of Japanese limnological sciences, it has served as a driving force for ground-breaking studies in aquatic and microbial ecology. These scientific advancements were achieved due to the lake's unique combination of modern research facilities and ancient cultural legacy. In the same vein, Lake Zurich in Switzerland, the birthplace of limnology, is the subject of extensive and long-term freshwater studies that shape our current understanding of aquatic microbial ecology and evolution. The KU research station at Lake Biwa and the UZH station at Lake Zurich occupy a special place in the limnological literature, and provide exceptional platforms for breakthrough research in this field. In this collaborative project, the visiting and host researchers combined their cutting-edge experience and expertise from the eastern and western "pilot lakes" to advance the technical frontiers of environmental microbiology, including long-read metagenomics, single-cell genomics, and genome-resolved metaproteomics. As an outcome of the two-week visit and discussions, the visiting and host researchers developed a proposal for a new research project to further deepen this collaboration. The project was successfully approved, and we have initiated more substantial research exchanges, including reciprocal visits by researchers and students from both sides.</p>