Conference Report

Report on the 61st Autumn Meeting 2000 of The Japan Society of Applied Physics

The 61st Autumn Meeting 2000 of The Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP) was held for September 3rd - 7th in the city of Sapporo. Sapporo is the prefectural capital of Hokkaido and has long been a favorite destination of both Japanese and foreign visitors. The city is large enough to accommodate comfortably the many participants in the Autumn Meeting.

Among the historical monuments of the city is a white-painted wooden Clock Tower. The Clock Tower is located close to the center of the city where tourists, as ever, were spending their evenings in pleasant conversation over a drink or taking pictures in the nearby O-Dori Park. O-Dori Park is big and, in early September, with its fountains, was still looking its very best.

The Autumn Meeting was held on the campus of Hokkaido Institute of Technology in the residential Teine district and was attended by 5,499 applied physicists. Teine is barely a 15-minute train ride from the main railway station of Sapporo, so the frequent outbound trains in the morning and inbound trains in the late afternoon were invariably full of applied physicists attending the meeting. Scientific discussions would even start on occasion between participants who met quite by chance on one of the early morning trains. Then, having arrived at the venue of the meeting site, they would say their goodbyes and attend sessions in their own fields of specialization.

The meeting catered for specialists in a wide range of fields, such as crystal engineering, silicon, thin films and surfaces, quantum electronics, non-silicon semiconductors, organic molecular electronics and bioelectronics, beam technologies and amorphous materials. In fact there were, all told, 32 parallel sessions held concurrently.

This year two Schools of "Engineering Education of Globalization Era" and "Science and Technology for Co-Existence with Nature" and a total of twelve lectures were open, free-of-charge, to all participants attending the meeting. Two Joint Sessions on "Electronic devices based on silicon nanostructures" and "Fundamentals and applications of plasma-enhanced CVD" attracted 19 and 28 contributed papers and 100 and 200 interdisciplinary participants, respectively. Seventeen 'Topical Symposia' with no fewer than 135 invited papers were also held. The various Poster Sessions also presented researchers with a good opportunity to have one-to-one discussions with the authors of the papers of most interest to them.

The 'Regular Sessions' included a wide and attractive range of contributed oral papers at which postgraduate students presented their own ideas, experiments and models in an effort to win the Young Investigator Award of JSAP. Then, a leading young professor who was concurrently the leader of a medium-size, 5-year exploratory research project in the same field, presented his most recent work, supported by nice experimental evidence, in an excellent 10-minute talk. The presentation stimulated much discussion and the speaker responded clearly and impressively to all the questions that were raised.

The meeting was also very accessible. For example, the registration fees were set as low as 1000 yen (US$ 9) for students, 3,000 yen (US$27) for members of JSAP or mutually-contracted societies and 5,000 yen (US$45) for non-members. This made the registration fees almost ten times lower than the fees usually charged for attending an international conference. The lower rates were possible thanks to the courtesy of Hokkaido Institute of Technology as well as to the great efforts of the volunteer members of JSAP, mostly from Hokkaido, who made the local arrangements. These low rates undoubtedly encouraged not only young students and retired scientists to attend the meeting, but also scientists who do not work in research and development divisions. The presence of all these participants undoubtedly stimulated more discussion at the meeting.

The meeting was open internationally as well. The extended abstracts showed the titles of papers and the names and affiliations of the authors in both English and Japanese, and some of the abstracts were also written in English. Many more figures with English captions were also to be seen in the various papers and, in the program book, the titles of papers presented in English were labeled with a special symbol. Electronic submission of

abstracts from the JSAP web page (http://www.jsap.or.jp/) is scheduled to be available from the Autumn Meeting of 2002. We hope that the electronic submission will make it easier for international scientists to submit their abstracts for presentation at the JSAP meetings.

There were opportunities for scientists from different fields and different organizations to strike up all kinds of interrelationships at the meeting, with participants coming from development, production, universities, corporate laboratories and public-sector institutions. One university professor would present far more interesting new engineering ideas than many industrial researchers, while another researcher engaged in industrial development would describe and explain a beautiful model of a basic reaction process in a truly scientific and academic-like manner.

One really could not tell the affiliations of individual researchers from their presentations. On the other hand, neither could one deny the relative advantage that affiliations can offer, such as the continuous flow of up-to-date information from a production line or the intellectual stimulus of close contact with young students. In any event, it is for sure that one could gain a great deal by interacting closely with other participants at the meeting. So why don't you attend the next JSAP meeting and present your results and ideas to the world? Who knows when a member of the audience will approach you to help the future progress of your research in exchange for a sample!

All in all, the 61st Autumn Meeting of JSAP was an important scientific event for enthusiastic and talented researchers in all branches of applied physics.

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