

Present and Future Views of the Optical Society of Japan



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The Optical Society of Japan (OSJ) was established in 1952. At that time, it collaborated with Japan's industries in research targeting such themes as thin films and Optical Transfer Functions (OTF), and has since earned recognition for its significant contributions to the advancement of the optics industry. The OSJ has an exceptional history that one could safely say has formed the theoretical backbone which has enabled the Japanese optics industry to produce many of the world's best optic devices, including cameras, microscopes, and stepers. The OSJ has developed along with the Japanese economy, and now, after 51 years, it boasts some 2,000 members, and is involved in a wide range of operations. In addition to publishing the monthly journal "Kogaku (Japanese Journal of Optics)" and the bi-monthly English journal "Optical Review," the OSJ holds various meetings, including "Optics Japan" – an annual meeting held in Japan – and International conferences such as the ODF (International Conference on Optics-photonics Design and Fabrication) and ICOSN (International Conference on Optical Engineering for Sensing and Nanotechnology), along with various other symposiums and seminars. ICO'04 will be held at the Nippon Convention Center (Makuhari Messe) in Chiba from July 12 to 15, 2004, in conjunction with ODF'04 and ICOSN'04. The theme for ICO'04 is "Optics & Photonics in Technology Frontier," and the conference is expected to draw many visitors from Japan and around the world.

The OSJ has eleven working groups, each of which is involved in a wide range of information exchanges and human interactions related to the latest research in optics and optic technologies. The working groups are: Image Science, Near-Field Optics, Contemporary Optics, Vision, Biomedical optics, Information Photonics, Optical Design, Micro-optics, Holographic Displays, Light-wave Synthesis and Photonic Networks.

The OSJ has also established two award systems – the Optics prize for excellent papers, and the Optics prize for young scientists –

in order to provide incentives for outstanding research and foster the exceptional researchers of the future. The former prize is awarded to the primary authors (39 years or younger) of exceptional original research papers related to the field of optics, while the latter prize is awarded to budding young researchers (29 years or younger) who show great promise for the future.

The Optical Society of Japan is an academic organization with an outstanding tradition and record of achievements. The world is undergoing significant changes, however, and the outside environment surrounding the academic societies is changing dramatically as well, making it necessary for the OSJ to implement a wide range of reforms. One of these reforms involves activities targeting the revitalization of research support in important fields that meet the demands of today's society; in addition to the scientific research fields that many members are currently involved in, this includes fields such as telecommunications, life sciences, energy, the environment, and space sciences. Recently, in the context of science and technologies, it has become necessary to combine various types of technologies across a wide range of fields, so we must collaborate with other academic societies and expand our activities in order to accommodate this growing number of interdisciplinary technologies. Furthermore in this era of true globalization, we must also ensure that the contributions made by our organization benefit not only Japan, but the world at large.

With a view toward these issues, we will undertake a number of measures, such as expanding the scope of our services and operations, strengthening our organization, and creating an electronic version of the Optical Review Journal. The Optical Society of Japan will continue to contribute to the pursuits of its members, and at the same will aim to provide even more value to society through its services and activities.

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