

Report on the 64th Fall Meeting (2003) of The Japan Society of Applied Physics

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The 64th Annual JSAP Meeting was held over four days, from August 30 (Saturday) to September 2 (Tuesday), at the Nanakuma Campus of Fukuoka University in Fukuoka City. There were concerns about the arrival of a typhoon before the meeting, but the venue was favored by mainly clear weather over the entire four days, and the meeting came to a close with no major problems. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the members of the Local Executive Committee for their devoted efforts – particularly Professor Mitsuo Maeda of Kyushu University (Local Executive Committee Chairman), Professor Yasukuni Matsumoto of Fukuoka University (Vice-Chairman), Professor Nobuyasu Hiramatsu, also of Fukuoka University (in charge of Administration), and Professor Yukinori Kuroki of Kyushu University, the Director of the Kyushu Chapter. I would also like to thank President Hiroyuki Yamashita of Fukuoka University and all the members of the University Administration for their invaluable assistance.

1 Meeting Statistics

At this year's meeting, there were a total of 3,950 research papers presented, with 3,590 regular lectures and 360 symposiums and other special presentations (calculated at 15 minutes each, which is the time allowed for regular lectures), each of which were followed by lively discussions. Incidentally, there were a total of 3,902 papers (3,552 regular lectures and 350 symposiums) at the meeting held last autumn at Niigata University (Hokuriku / Shin'etsu Chapter), which represents a very impressive year-on-year increase of 48 papers. From Figure 1 (ref. Fig. 1(a)), which shows data for Meetings held since 1994, we can see that in terms of autumn meetings, the number of papers this year was on a scale rivaling that of the meeting held six years ago at Akita University (Tohoku Chapter). JSAP's annual meetings saw the number of papers level off and then begin to decrease in keeping with the shift experienced by the semiconductor industry in Japan from a boom period (in the 1980s) to a period

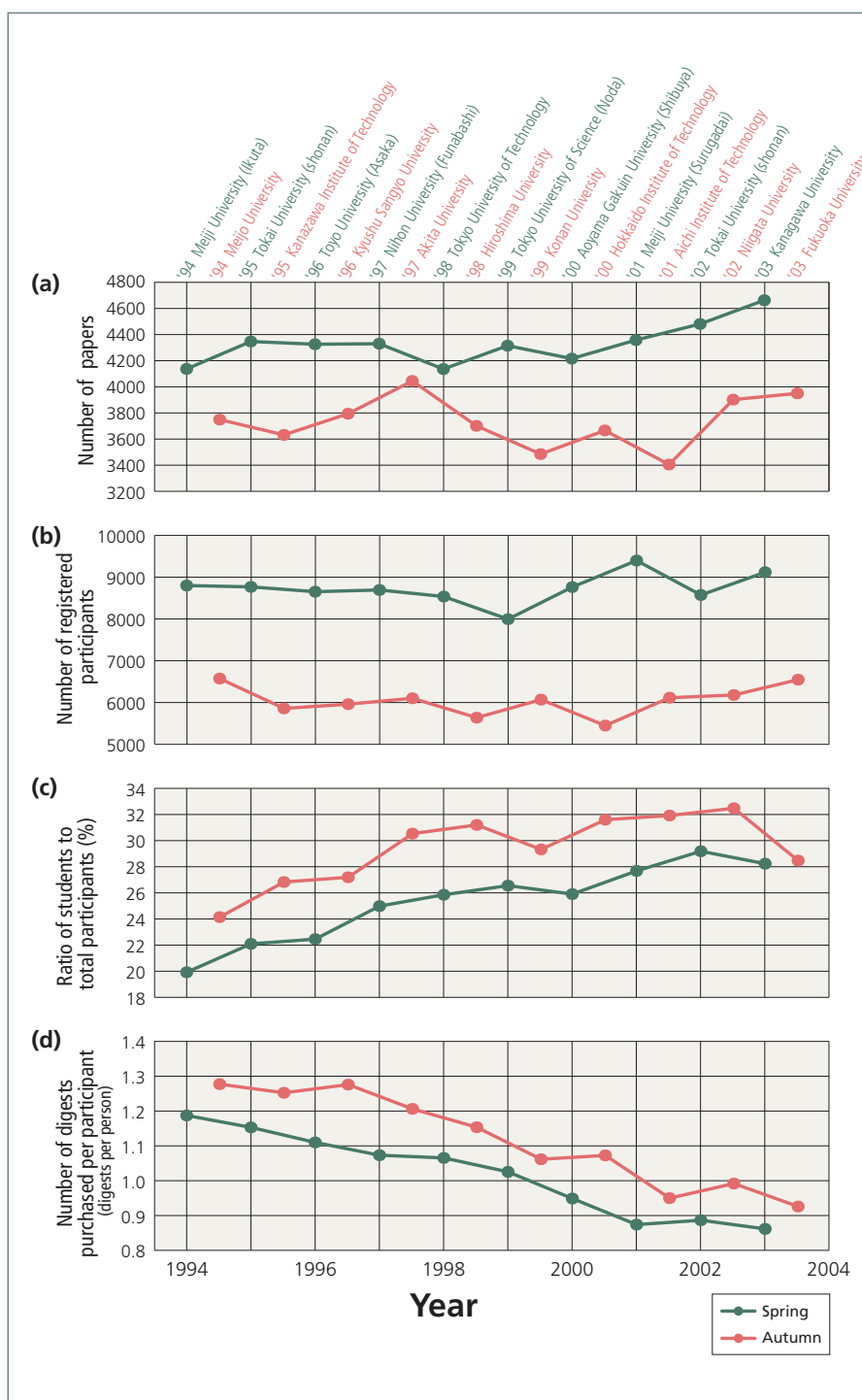


Fig. 1 JSAP Annual Meeting Statistics

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of relative stagnation (in the 1990s). Nevertheless, taking into consideration the total number of papers at the spring meetings, it would appear that there has been a recovery trend over the past three years or so. Perhaps as a reflection of this trend, the number of registered participants reached 6,542, a significant increase over the 6,180 participants at the previous meeting at Niigata University (ref. Fig. 1(b)). Given the state of the manufacturing industry, which has yet to show satisfactory signs of recovery, participation has far exceeded our expectations, and as Chairman of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, I couldn't be more pleased with these results.

At this meeting, the number of papers increased in ten of the fifteen major classifications of fields. The five classifications with the most papers were: ⑥ Thin films / surfaces (457 papers), ⑬ Crystal engineering (421 papers), ⑪ Semiconductors-A (372 papers), ⑩ Organic molecular electronics and bioelectronics (358), and ⑫ Semiconductors-B (344 papers). The classifications that showed the greatest percentage increase in the number of papers compared to last autumn were: ① Radiation / plasma electronics, ③ Optics, and ④ Quantum electronics.

In addition to the regular lectures, there were 18 Symposiums, four Joint Sessions, and one general lecture covering several secondary classifications. Joint Session F, entitled "Carbon Nanotubes: Foundations and Applications," was established at the Spring 2003 Meeting. Despite the fact that this was only the second Joint Session on this topic, there were 87 lectures, proof of the exceptionally high degree of interest in fields related to nanotechnologies. Two JSAP Schools were also held: School A, entitled "Points and Know-how in the construction, composition, and electron state analysis of materials for applied physics," and School B, entitled "Organic Devices and the Cutting Edge of Development: Part 1 – Materials" (offered through a collaboration between JSAP and the Society of Polymer Science, Japan (SPSJ)). Both were extremely popular, with School A receiving 211 people and School B welcoming 150 people.

During the meeting, Dr. Sumio Iijima, the recipient of the 3rd JSAP Outstanding Achievement Award, presented a commemorative lecture entitled "The Science and Technology of Nanotubes," attracting such a large audience that the lecture hall was filled well beyond its regular capacity. On the first day of the Meeting, the "14th Scientist Awards for the Presentation of an Excellent Paper" were presented to 41 individuals selected from among 571 of the 4,072 regular lectures at the Spring 2003 Meeting (Kanagawa University) for which applications had been received in advance. JSAP President Toshio Go-to presented the awards along with a commemorative gift, praising these young researchers for their achievements and offering words of encouragement for their future endeavors.

2 Internet Reception of applications for papers, creation of CD-ROM Digests, etc.

JSAP began accepting submissions for its Digest in electronic format from the call for papers for the Spring 2002 Meeting. At the recent meeting, the fourth since that time, nearly all submissions were received electronically. Specifically, 99.6% of the papers were received in electronic format, with only nine papers being received as hard copies. Even those nine papers were only submitted in hard copy format because a single research institute was experiencing problems with its computer system, so it can be considered that the actual rate of electronic submissions was no less than 100%, a rate that is unprecedented in any other academic society. Given this situation, JSAP has decided to eliminate hard copy submissions of papers starting with the Spring 2004 Meeting (Tokyo University of Technology), so that all submissions should be received electronically.

As shown in Fig. 1(c), students account for a large percentage of participants at the meeting, with numbers approaching one third of the total at the Autumn 2002 Meeting. From the perspective of the future of the Japan Society of Applied Physics, it is truly encouraging to see that many young researchers participate actively in the Meetings and present their latest research results. On the other hand, it is regretful to see the continuing decline in the sales of JSAP Digests (ref. Fig. 1(d)). I would like to ask all of our members for their cooperation in the purchase of the Digest, a key media for the transmission of the most recent research achievements.

A number of issues have been raised in the past regarding the print of a CD-ROM version of the Digest, and we would like to respond to these issues as quickly as possible. There are a number of merits to a CD-ROM Digest, including convenience in carrying the Digest because of the light weight of CDs, ease in searching for information, and compactness for easier storage. There are also disadvantages, however; for example, participants would be unable to take notes while following along with the Digest at a lecture venue. We are considering measures such as including the cost of the CD-ROM in the Meeting Registration Fee, but an increase in overhead would be unavoidable. We are also looking closely at the issue of encouraging presentations that use Power Point rather than OHPs. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee is currently conducting a variety of case studies with regard to these changes, but we feel that it is important to first formally take in and reflect the consensus of the Society members. To this end, in the near future, we will conduct opinion surveys, and will devote ourselves to the promotion of appropriate measures. I would like to take this opportunity to request your assistance and cooperation in this regard.

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