

Report on the 53rd Spring Meeting (2006) of The Japan Society of Applied Physics and Related Societies

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Annual Meeting Committee Chairman

The 53rd Annual JSAP Meeting was held over five days, from March 22 (Wednesday) to 26 (Sunday), 2006, at the Setagaya Campus of the Musashi Institute of Technology (in Setagaya-ku, Tokyo). It was raining from the evening of the first day, on the 22nd, to the morning of the 23rd, but the weather was clear through most of the meeting, and the lectures were concluded without major incident.

This year's Local Executive Committee, which was comprised of a mixed team from the Musashi Institute of Technology and the Tokyo Institute of Technology, made valuable contributions to the preparations for the meeting. We would like to thank all of the members of the Local Executive Committee for their efforts, but particularly Professor Shunri Oda of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, who acted as Chairman of the Local Executive Committee, and the Vice Chairman, Prof. Takuya Maruizumi of the Musashi Institute of Technology, as well as Prof. Hiroshi Hirano, also from the Musashi Institute of Technology, who was in charge of administration for the Local Executive Committee. We are particularly indebted to Hideo Nakamura, President of the Musashi Institute of Technology; Prof. Hiroshi Ishiwara, Head of the Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering at the Tokyo Institute of Technology; Yoshihiko Hagiwara, Vice President of the Musashi Institute of Technology; Prof. Yasuhiro Shiraki, Director of the Musashi Institute of Technology Advanced Research Laboratories; and the administrative staff of the Musashi Institute of Technology. We would like to take this opportunity to express our

deep appreciation for their efforts.

At this Meeting, there were a total of 4,601 presentations of research results, including 4,028 regular lectures and 573 symposiums and other topical sessions (calculated in 15-minute segments, representing the same time allocated to regular lectures). Active discussions took place at all 38 of the oral lecture and poster session venues. Incidentally, there were a total of 4,803 presentations at the Meeting held at Saitama University last spring, including 4,157 regular lectures and 646 symposiums and other topical sessions. Figure 1 shows the distribution of presentations in each Main Classification, including the relevant joint sessions. When we received papers in electronic format, we requested that the presenters indicate which of four key fields that paper was most closely related to. The results are as follows: Nanotechnology: 1,780; Information Technology: 448; Biotechnology: 140; and the Environment: 140. Thus, one of the most notable features of JSAP is that papers related to Nanotechnology accounted for more than 40% of the total, and that the papers are distributed across a wide range of classifications.

Figure 2 illustrates the yearly trends in the number of presentations and registered participants. There are a number of reasons for the changes in the number of presentations and participants, including the Meeting location and dates, and conflicts with international conferences held by other academic societies. This spring, the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE) held a conference from March 24 to 27, and the Physical Society of Japan (PSJ) from March 27 to 30, so we expect that these events affected attendance at least to some extent.

During this year's meeting, the "19th Scientist Awards for the Presentation of an Excellent Paper" were presented to 34 individuals selected through a careful screening process from among 575 of the 3,341 regular lectures presented at the Fall 2005 Meeting by young researchers aged 33 years and under, for which applications had been received in advance. President Kenjiro Oura presented the awards along with a commemorative gift, praising these young researchers for their achievements and offering words of encouragement for their future endeavors. Special lectures commemorating the 34 Scientist Award recipients were held at the respective sessions.

Commemorative lectures were also held by the recipients of the 6th Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP) Outstanding Achievement Award (for research achievements), the 7th Optical and Quantum Electronics Achievement Award (the Hiroshi Takuma

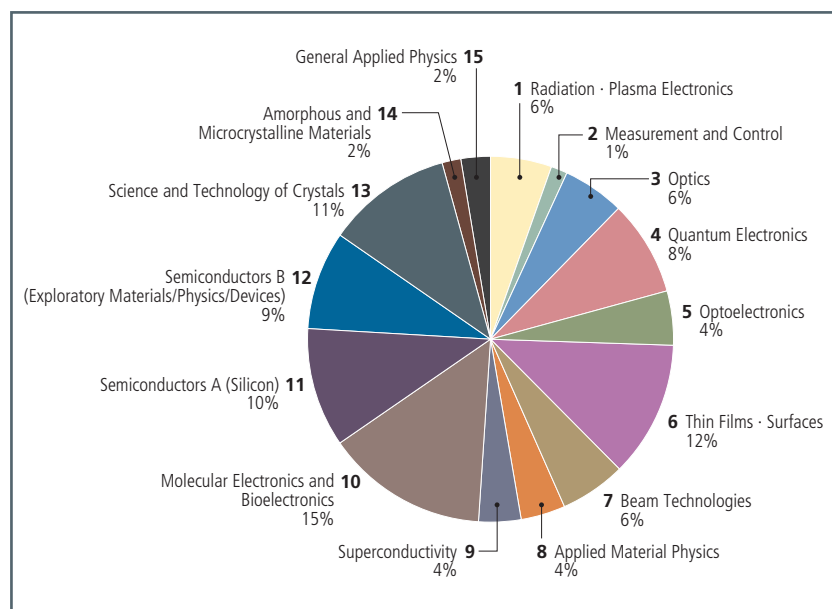


Figure 1: Ratio of presentations in each Main Classification (including joint sessions)

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Award), and the 3rd Optical and Electronic Integration Technology Achievement Award (the Izuo Hayashi Award). We would like to offer our warm congratulations to the recipients, and express our deep respect for their long years of research activities.

The specific events conducted through the course of this Meeting included: the 38th JSAP School A, which focused on the theme of "The current state of environmental technologies that utilized applied physics, and developments for the future," and School B, on the theme of "Introducing Standards and Fundamental Constants into Research and Education as a Basis Foundation for Science and Technology"; the 2006 Symposium of the Committee for Manpower Training and Joint Participation by Men and Women, on "Diversity and evaluation of R&D environments — current conditions and issues in corporate research"; the JJAP Friendship Meeting on "How Japanese Researchers can improve their English Research Papers"; and a special lecture by a representative of the Japanese Cabinet Office on "Strategies for promoting activities in the nanotechnology and materials fields in the 3rd Phase of the Basic Plan for Science and Technology." We hope that these events will provide an even greater impetus in the societal role of JSAP, and in the educational and research activities of its members.

Starting with this Spring Meeting, all presentations were made using PC projectors, and many research results were presented using video contents and other functions that greatly increased the visibility of slides. We must be cautious, however, and not become overly confident regarding the environment surrounding JSAP Meetings. We are still facing a number of issues, including a drop in the number of presentations and participants by corporate researchers, and suggestions that these meetings are "a mix of good and bad." As one means of increasing participation by corporate researchers, we held a symposium on the theme of "Applied Physics and Production: Aiming for Further Collaboration between JSAP and the Industrial World." To increase the quality of lectures and create opportuni-

ties for new employment, we have offered the option of including "post-doctoral researcher" or other identifying marks in the Lecture Program, at the request of the presenter in question.

We hope that these continued efforts to improve member services and to incorporate new activities will make these JSAP Meetings even more meaningful and valuable for all members in the years to come.

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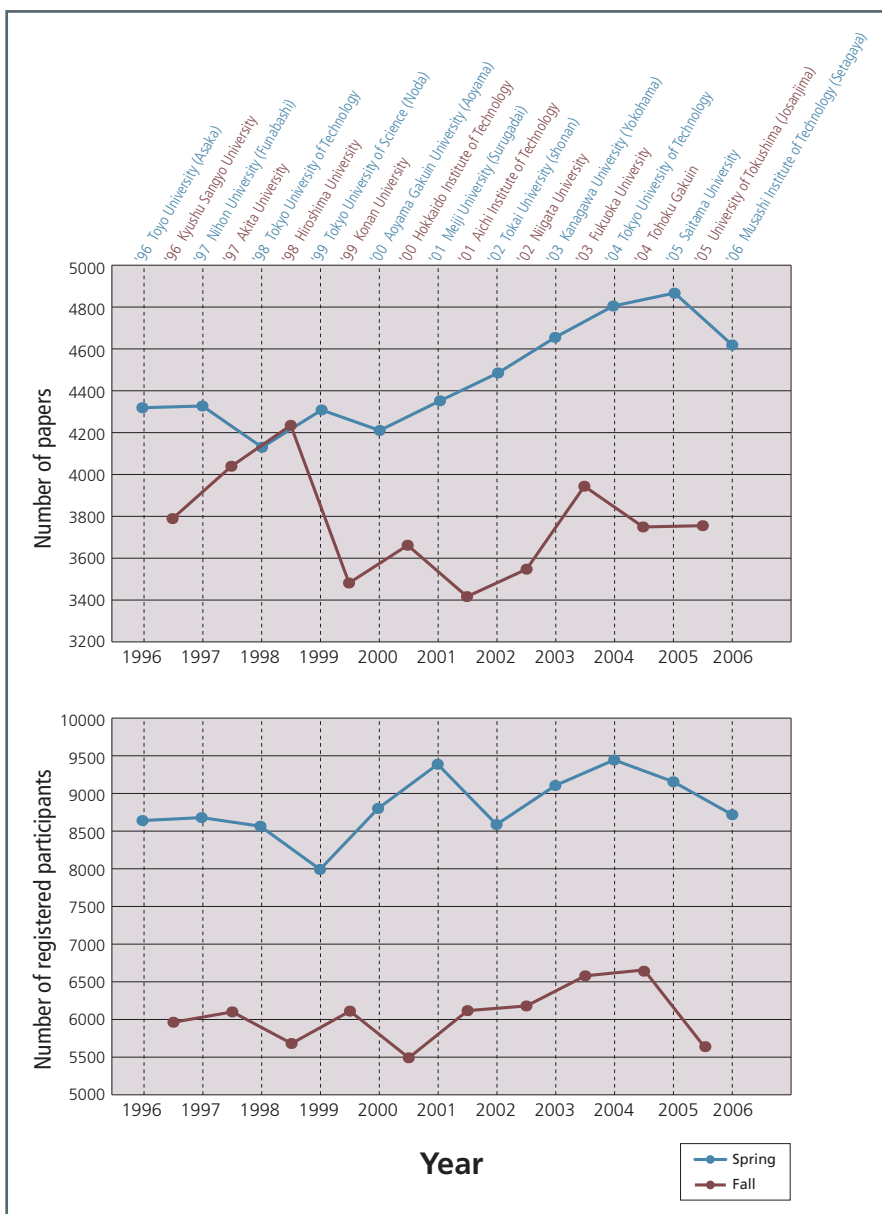


Figure 2: Annual movement in number of papers and number of registered participants