

Report on the 68th Autumn Meeting (2007) of The Japan society of Applied Physics

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The 68th Annual the Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP) Meeting (Autumn 2007) was held over five days, from September 4 (Tuesday) to September 8 (Saturday) at the Hokkaido Institute of Technology (in Teine-ku, Sapporo). To accommodate conditions at this venue, the Meeting was one day longer than last year's, which was held at Ritsumeikan University. The weather was cool and refreshing, as is typical of Hokkaido, and the meeting was brought to a successful conclusion, with no major incidents. There was a typhoon that hit the Kanto region and cut a path across Tohoku before passing through Hokkaido late at night on the fourth day of the Meeting, but thanks to the lessons learned from the typhoon that hit the University of Tokushima two years ago, and the risk management manual that was prepared after that event, this typhoon did not interfere with the Meeting's proceedings.

The Local Steering Committee, comprised mainly of instructors from the Hokkaido Institute of Technology and Hokkaido University, dedicated themselves to making preparations for the meeting. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Kazuaki Imai, the Local Steering Committee Chairman, Prof. Naoshi Baba, the Vice Chairmen, Prof. Masafumi Yamamoto, and all of the other members of the Local Steering Committee for their efforts. Thanks to the support and consideration of the Hokkaido Institute of Technology, we were able to use several spacious classrooms and various other facilities. We would also like to express our deep appreciation to Yasunobu Nishi, President of the Hokkaido Institute of Technology, Mitsuhiro Sugita Secretary-General, and all of the many individuals whose great efforts made this Meeting such a success.

At this Meeting, there were a total of 4,384 presentations of research results, including 3,794 regular lectures and 590 topical sessions (including 29 symposiums; calculated in 15-minute segments, representing the same time allocated to regular lectures). Active discussions took place at a total of 35 oral lecture and poster session venues.

The number of applications for regular lectures increased by 416 compared to last year's Meeting at Ritsumeikan University, and the number of prior registrations for participation has also increased steadily, reaching 3,583 this year (reservation rate: 55%). The total number of registered participants this year was 6,533 (full members and seniors: 3,646; students: 2,291; non-members: 596), an increase of more than 1,000 participants compared to the 2000 meeting, which was also held at the Hokkaido Institute of Technology (5,449 participants). As the head of planning for the Meeting, I was very happy to see the strong trend toward active participation continuing since last year's Meetings. I also believe that the following special events contributed dramatically to the increase in the number of participants.

1. The Special Symposium "Applied Physics and Venture Business: The Establishment of Venture Companies originating from JSAP" (hosted by the Task Force Committee and the Meeting Planning Operations Committee)

2. The Special Panel Exhibit "Applied Physics Academic Roadmap" and panels displayed at an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the "Oyo Buturi" Journal
3. 41st JSAP School: "Developments in Science and Technology using outer space environments"
4. 41st JSAP School (planned by the Spin Electronics Professional Group): "The fundamentals of spin electronics: Toward further developments and innovations in next-generation electronic devices"
5. 9th Meeting hosted by the Manpower Training / Gender Equality Committee: "Thinking about careers after doctorate studies (2)"
6. JJAP Friendship Meeting Lecture: "Aiming for high citation counts! How to write papers in English, and new letters; the first edition of the APEX Journal"

Event 1) included discussions based on experiences of starting up new venture companies originating from universities (or academic societies) based on industry-government-academia collaborations, as well as lectures on venture startup support measures and venture company support measures undertaken by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Japan Science and Technology Agency, the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). In Event 2), an interim report on the academic road map in the field of applied physics, with a view to the coming 30 years, was presented through poster panels for each cluster displayed in the main hallways of the Meeting venue. A large number of participants took time to view the posters, indicating the high level of interest in the cluster activities. In response to requests, a special symposium on the academic roadmap will be held as part of next spring's JSAP Meeting at the Nihon University Funabashi Campus.

Dramatic differences have begun to arise in the number of presentations in each classification, as a result of new trends in the areas of research covered by JSAP. In preparation for the Spring 2008 JSAP Meeting, calls for lectures have already begun in two new Main Classifications: "Plasma Electronics," which has been separated from "Radiation and Plasma Electronics" as an independent Division, and "Spintronics and Nanomagnetism," which expanded into a new Division from Joint Session E. (Please refer to the November Issue for details on this call for lectures.)

We plan to conduct studies regarding ways of increasing the appeal and vitality of these Meetings, for example by initiating new classifications such as the ones noted above, which anticipate the needs of the era. We will continue our efforts to make these JSAP Meetings even more meaningful and valuable for all members in the years to come, and we ask you for your understanding and support.

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