

Report on the 55th Spring Meeting (2008) of The Japan Society of Applied Physics and Related Societies

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The 55th Spring Meeting (2008) of The Japan Society of Applied Physics and Related Societies was held over four days, from March 27 (Thursday) to March 30 (Sunday) at the Nihon University College of Science and Technology, Funabashi Campus (Narashinodai, Funabashi City, Chiba Prefecture). Favored by refreshing spring weather, the meeting was held amid the blooming cherry trees, with 8,837 persons participating, and was brought to a successful conclusion with no major incidents.

As you may be aware, the number of JSAP members reached a record 24,000 members in 2007, and this Spring Meeting of JSAP and Related Societies enjoyed an unprecedented participation rate of nearly 40%. This is an envious state of affairs for many other academic societies that are suffering from a decline in membership due to the effects of the so-called "2007 problem." This high participation rate is an indication that faced with a deluge of electronic information in recent years, many members strongly believe that "Participating in these Meetings, and hearing first-hand what people have to say, is the best way of efficiently learning about the most recent research trends!" No doubt, the enhanced symposium plans, featuring top runners from a variety of fields, are another reason for the increased participation, not only by members, but by non-members as well. This has been a real wake-up call for me, reminding me once again of the serious mission and responsibility we have as members of this Steering Committee, in planning and organizing the Symposium.

The members of the Local Steering Committee, comprised mainly of instructors from Nihon University College of Science and Technology, dedicated themselves to making preparations for the meeting. I would like to thank Professor Hiroshi Yamamoto, the Chairman of the Local Steering Committee, as well as Prof. Katsuji Nakagawa, the Vice Chairman, and all of the other professors who acted as Committee Members, for all of their efforts. Thanks to the support and consideration of Nihon University, we were able to use several spacious classrooms and various other facilities. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to Prof. Mitsuaki Ochi, Dean of the College of Science and Technology, for his invaluable advice and assistance as Advisor to the Local Steering Committee.

At this Meeting, there were a total of 4,531 presentations of research results, including 3,849 regular lectures and 682 topical sessions (including 36 symposiums; calculated in 15-minute segments, representing the same time allocated to regular lectures). Active discussions

took place at a total of 47 oral lecture and poster session venues. The following special events attracted a particularly high level of interest from the participants. I will not include details of each event because of space limitations, but each covered issues representative of the present and future of applied physics, and extensive, heated discussions were conducted at all the venues.

- ① The Special Symposium "The Future Vision of Applied Physics: Academic Roadmaps with a View toward 2040" (hosted by the Task Force Committee and the Meeting Planning Operations Committee)
- ② Symposium of the Committee for Manpower Training and Joint Participation by Men and Women, on "Science and Technology Manpower Opening up a New Era: Manpower Training Partnerships between Industry and Academia"
- ③ The 42nd Applied Physics School: "Crystal Growth ZnO Semiconductors, and Device Fundamentals"
- ④ The 42nd Applied Physics School (Planned by the Education/Public Operations Committee): "Global Warming and Issues for Applied Physics"
- ⑤ APEX/JJAP friendship meeting: "Frank Discussions on APEX's Successful Takeoff"

Among the events held in conjunction with the JSAP Meeting, the 8th JSAP Achievement Award Ceremony (for research achievements) was held on the first day of the Meeting. Awards were presented to Prof. Yoshihiro Hamakawa, Adviser to the Chancellor of Ritsumeikan University and Professor emeritus at Osaka University) for "Advanced Research in amorphous silicon solar cells" and to Prof. Masataka Hirose (Director of the Advanced Semiconductor Research Center) for "Fundamental and Leading Research on Amorphous Semiconductor Superlattices and Silicon Integration Technologies." The recipients were presented with a certificate and a commemorative gift from Chairman Hiroshi Ishiwara in recognition of their achievements, and had the opportunity to conduct commemorative lectures during the Meeting.

A ceremony for the 23rd Scientist Awards for the Presentation of an Excellent Paper was also held on the first day of the Meeting. A total of 38 individuals were selected through a careful screening process from among 655 of the 3,794 regular lectures presented at the Fall 2007 Meeting for which applications had been received in advance.

Starting from this Meeting, applications were received for presentations in two new Main Classifications: "Plasma Electronics" was sepa-

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rated from "Radiation and Plasma Electronics" as an independent Division, and Joint Session E grew into the new Division of "Spintronics and Nanomagnetism."

Figure 1 shows the number of applications for lectures in each of the 17 major classifications and 4 Joint Sessions. We can see that 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 each field. As in the previous meeting, papers related to nanotechnology accounted for more than 40% of the total, but there were more papers this year in the fields of organic molecular electronics, biotechnology, and the environment.

The Meeting Planning Committee constantly reexamines and appropriately adjusts the Main Classifications as well as the Secondary Classi-

fications in keeping with the rapid changes in the field of applied chemistry, so applicants will immediately know which sessions to apply for when submitting papers.

The Committee is currently considering a DVD-ROM version of the JSAP Digest, out of consideration for the environment, and for the convenience of participants. In a survey of Meeting Planning Committee Delegates and Directors conducted in March of this year, there was nearly 100% agreement on the shift to the DVD format. Based on these results, the Committee will begin studies for full-scale implementation of this plan. We trust 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, and we ask you for your understanding and support in this regard.

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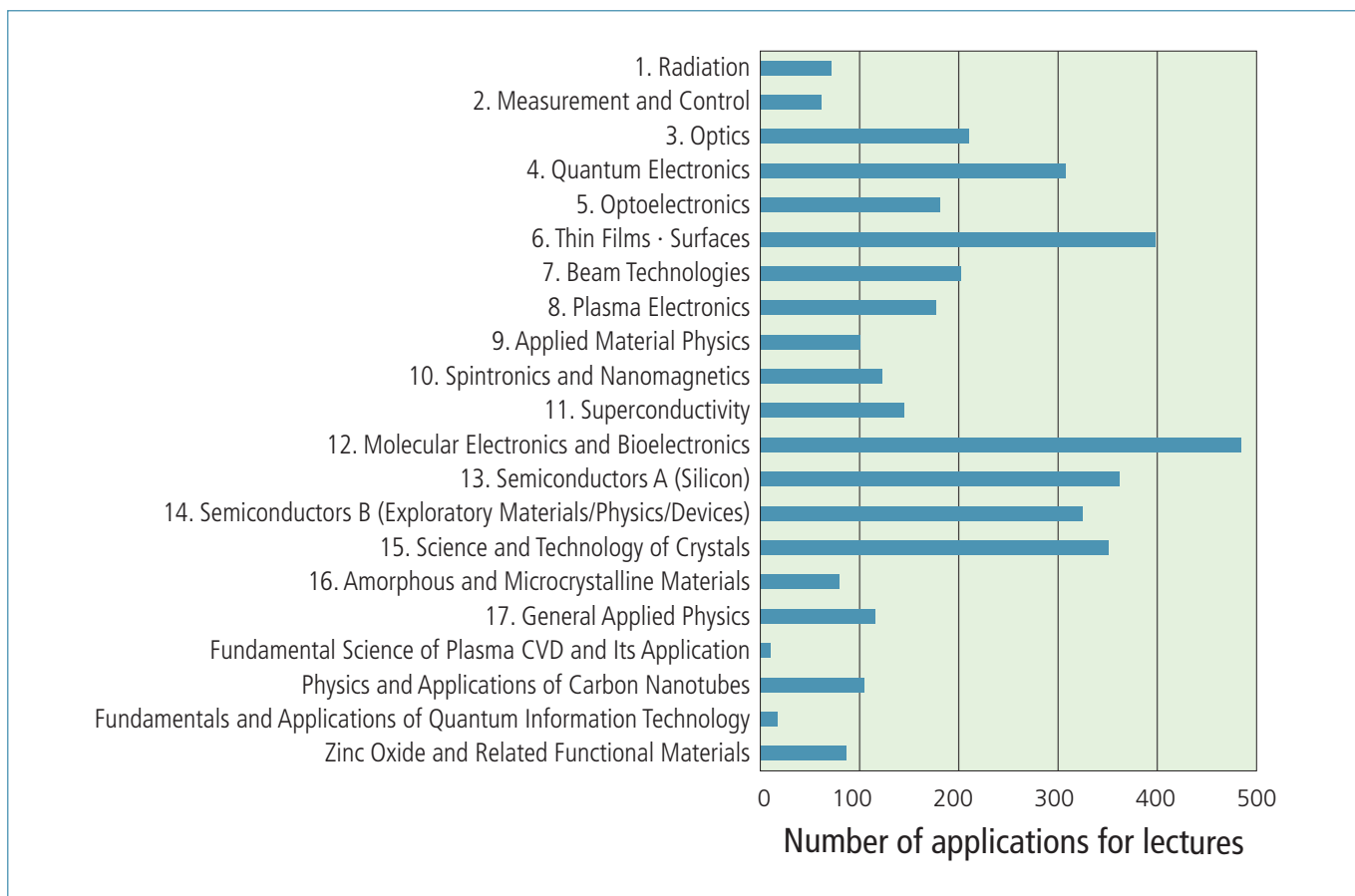


Figure 1