Opening Address

Mitsuo Sugimoto

Chairman of ICF 11 Organizing Committee, Chairman of ICF-IC

Ladies and Gentlemen. I want to extend a cordial welcome to all of you from the various countries. It is my great pleasure and honor to make opening address here today. This is the fifth time for Japan to host this conference, and it is very honorable for us. Since we started the preparation of this conference, we have met with many tragic events. For instance, in March 2011, a great earthquake and tsunami occurred in the northeastern region of Japan and a lot of electronics components manufacturers deeply related to this conference have been strongly damaged. The scattering of radioactivity from the damaged nuclear power plant has not only urged the foreigners living in Japan to go back to their countries, but has also made foreigners hesitate to visit Japan. In addition to this tragedy, we experienced a sudden death of two excellent members of the executive committee.

Under such circumstance, we had to postpone this conference until one and a half year later, and we also decided to remove the site of this conference from the ancient city Nara to the resort area in Okinawa. We were afraid that such changes would affect some of you, but today, we are very happy to have many participants here from 22 countries all over the world.

There are three marked characteristics in this conference. First, we have expanded the scope of this conference, and have collected creative papers on science and technology that deal with ferrites and advanced materials. This expansion of the scope may have enabled many participants studying material science and devices to be here today.

Second, we invited many worldwide pioneer specialists engaged in unique and foreseeing research to this conference. In the plenary session, we will have three speakers of notable researchers from U.S.A, the United Kingdom and Japan. Also there will be symposiums of the four interested fields, that are, “Biomedical Application of Magnetic Particles and Structures”, “Multiferroic Materials”, “Environmental Preservation by Using Magnetic Particles and Superconducting Magnets” and “Hard Magnetic Materials and Their Applications”.

As for research presentation, there will be three oral sessions for these lectures and each session will be progressing in parallel for three days, and we also have poster sessions today and tomorrow afternoon. So, please check the session for the lecture you wish to attend. We believe many of you here will find these lectures very helpful and informative for your future research and technological development.

Our third characteristic is to create an occasion for you to know a bit of the unique and traditional culture of Okinawa which is quite different from mainland Japan. This traditional and cultural event will be held on coming Wednesday evening. We sincerely hope that all of you will enjoy the event to the fullest.

As you already know, the current world situation of the industrial and researching activity in ferrites has changed drastically. The great ferrite production countries have moved to China, India and Brazil and so forth from U.S.A., England, Germany, France and Japan. Research papers related to ferrites have been decreasing in number year by year, perhaps because there have not been any new exciting topics about ferrites as well as magnetic materials which appeal strongly to the creative imagination of the researchers and engineers. However, I have the highest hope for the future of ferrites, perhaps because I believe that we will have potential in finding new ferrites in the near future. I think that the newly found ferrites might have a new crystal form or a new chemical composition which is completely different from that of the ferrites we know, and also it may lead us to find new applicable fields. Fortunately, at this conference, you will be able to hear a few attractive presentations on the newly found ferrites or the renewed magnetic oxides.

Today, I am here with a photo of my teacher Prof. Takeshi Takei in my chest pocket. As you well know, Prof. Takei was the first person who improved the magnetic properties of both soft and hard ferrites to the practical level and enabled their application to industry in Japan. He was also the founder of this conference. Finally, let me once again extend a warm welcome to all participants and also express our wish that this conference over the five days may be fruitful, together with Prof. Takei in heaven. Thank you.