I am grateful to the members of the International Committee of ICF who have selected me for the prestigious Eighth Takeshi Takei Award.

At ICF 1 at Kyoto in 1970 one very distinguished member of the magnetism community from Bell Telephone Laboratories casually asked me if I understood the purpose of starting an International Conference on Ferrites when all that we need to know about ferrites is already known. I had no answer then. At the same conference Prof. T. Takei told me that India had great scope for research and industrial production in the field of ferrites. How prophetic his words were established almost three decades later. ICF 5 was held in 1989 in India. A study reported at ICF 7 at Bordeaux in 1997 on the growth of ferrite industry and research in India shows that the normal annual growth of 3 to 4 percent after ICF 5 rose to a robust 30% during the next ten years!

The major International conferences on magnetism, ICM, INTERMAG and MMM focus on recent developments in fundamental and applied magnetism and are different from those of ICF whose emphasis is on engineering-oriented studies of oxide materials. The award of 2007 Nobel Prize in Physics to Albert Fert and Peter Grönberg for the discovery of giant magnetoresistance and breakthrough in gigahertz hard disk devices shows the growing importance of industrial applications of magnetic materials in the scientific community.

Along with the global cooperation in the growth of ferrite industry, ICF attempts to bring the sophisticated advances in basic research on oxide based materials to the people engaged in their engineering applications. The theme of the conference thus changes with time, from memory applications at ICF 1 to completely new areas for technologies of spintronic applications, ferroics and high $T_c$ superconductors at ICF 11. These have arisen from the discovery in late nineteen eighties of layered-structured oxide superconductors and $d^0$ ferromagnetism in oxide films and nanoparticles without $3d$ elements.

The success of ICFs from beginning in 1970 to the present has been due primarily to the vision and leadership of the present chairman of ICFIC, Prof. Mitsuo Sugimoto, whose firm belief that ferrites and associated oxide materials have many excellent qualities yet to be discovered for advances in electronics industry and necessitates continuing ICFs. The organizers of this conference have convincingly demonstrated this by focusing on the new developments in oxide materials along with materials for the conventional ferrite based technologies of information, communication, entertainment and environment.