The Letter from the Editor

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It is my pleasure to issue KONA Number 22. KONA is an annual journal and thus it is printed once a year and distributed through the KONA web site. Paper-base KONA is also distributed to libraries although the number of paper-base KONA is limited. The season when you see the new volume of KONA is usually winter. Winter, particularly late December or early January, is the time to make general views of the year. Looking back over the year 2004, I really feel that unfortunate or sad things have happened far more than fortunate or glad things. The world of particle technology is not an exception. In September, Prof. Brian Scarlett, the world giant of particle technology, passed away. This sad news has spread all over the world. In Japan, we lost Prof. Kei Miyanami who was the editor-in-chief KONA from 1991 to 1999. Prof. Miyanami, 68, passed away on September 24th. He died of cancer. With numerous services rendered by both professors, we offer this token of our deepest sympathy.

Let me briefly describe Prof. Miyanami and his achievements. After graduating from the University of Osaka Prefecture in 1959, he was working at the Central Research Laboratory of Hitachi, Ltd. In 1965 he returned to work at the Department of Chemical Engineering of the university that he graduated from. His research areas were powder mixing, granulation and coating. He is well known as an expert of measurements of powder processing. Long time ago when computers were not so much developed as today, he was already very skillful to use computers for measurements. A unique optical sensor for powder mixing was developed in his laboratory. Many valuable experimental and theoretical results have been presented by himself and his group. Later, his main interest turned to environmental problems like management of waste and garbage processing. He filled various important roles in committees concerning these problems. Another feature of his activities that we know is his close and good relation with the Korean community of particle technology. His presence was very meaningful in that the Japanese community of particle technology has been able to develop good relation with Korean researchers and engineers. His contribution to KONA journal was great. He was respected as an excellent editor and liked by everyone who knows him because of his warm personality.

Besides these personnel losses in particle technology, many unfortunate things happened in 2004. In Japan, we suffered natural disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes. In the world, bad news and tragedies are countless. If we try to take an example of few good things, we might say that Japanese economy is becoming a little better. Powder industries receive this benefit and have been revitalized in 2004. I hope that this trend will continue and grow more in 2005.