The Letter from the Editor

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Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased to announce a good news of KONA. At long last, KONA has been accepted as a journal registered in the web-of-science. It might be a little surprising that KONA had not been registered and thus did not have “impact factor” though it has been regularly published and distributed in the world more than a quarter century. The reason of the delay is that we did not take any action for a long time for such a database. In a sense we were satisfied with good reputation of KONA among a number of readers in the world related to powder technology. However the word “impact factor” is very influential regardless our likes or dislikes. We know that there are many good journals without the impact factor, especially in the countries where English is not common. However, journals without the impact factor are sometimes regarded as being not international. Since a few years ago, strong voices saying “the impact factor is mandatory” arose from editorial members of KONA. Therefore, three years ago we applied for registration in the web-of-science. The Thomson-Reuter company has been investigating the quality of a journal based on three samples submitted after the action of application. KONA is an annual journal and so it has taken three years to be put on the table of decision.

The hurdle for acceptance in web-of-science is getting higher and higher. I hear that the ratio of acceptance is about 10% nowadays. This means that only one out of ten journals is accepted. This situation is quite hard in general, but I had confidence kept in my mind because KONA satisfies all the necessary conditions to be accepted; quality of papers, regular publication and international diversity.

KONA has some unique aspects as an international journal. First, its editorial system should be pointed out. We have three regional editorial boards in the world. The one is Asia and Oceania board, the second is the American board

and the third is the European and African. All members are well known as experts in the field of powder and particle technology. Our editing policy is to take a good balance in these three regions. Each board reviews the articles submitted independently. About one third of articles come from each region. In this sense, international diversity of articles is automatically satisfied.

Second, I would like to point out another uniqueness. KONA is issued by a public foundation. The name of the foundation is Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation. This foundation is a public service corporation approved by the Japanese government. The word “Hosokawa” is the name of the president of Hosokawa Micron Co. The foundation was established by his donation. The foundation conducts various activities besides issuing KONA, for example, providing research grants, organizing a conference and a symposium. All the costs of KONA are covered by the income of the foundation. Though the foundation has the name of Hosokawa, the foundation is completely independent of the company. Management of the foundation is not influenced by the company business at all. In this sense, basic structure of the foundation is strong. We do not care at all about the number of subscription. We need not consider profit because the foundation should not make profit under the law of Japanese government.

Next, I will write about timeliness of printing. If you see KONA, you will find contents of three Japanese journals in the last part of KONA. The purpose of listing these contents is to provide information of articles written in Japanese to our readers outside Japan. Originally the contents are in Japanese and these contents shown in KONA are translated ones. The date of issue of KONA is December 25th. It is not easy to include the contents of the whole year of other journals in December. KONA is published in the printed version and the electric version. We keep this date of issue, December 25th, for the electric version. The printed version is distributed in the first week of January. The reason of this small delay is that even if KONA is printed on December 25th, it is very difficult to dispatch it to our readers by post because most offices are closed from the end of December to the beginning of January.

We have found a problem of KONA in the process of application. The problem is its name. KONA means “powder” in Japanese, but this is understood only by Japanese. If you search the word “KONA” in the web site, you will reach the KONA coast in Hawaii. Taking the opportunity of web-of-science acceptance, it is declared that the official name of the journal is “KONA Powder and Particle Journal.” When you cite papers in our journal, do not use only “KONA” nor “KONA Journal”, but precisely write “KONA Powder and Particle Journal.”