The Letter from the Editor

Mr. Masuo Hosokawa

Mr. Masuo Hosokawa, Chairman of Hosokawa Micron Corp. and the president of Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation, passed away on March 31st, 2010. He was 85 years old. Many people in powder process industry know him as the man who has brought up the Hosokawa Micron Group as a world-leading company. He was a charismatic leader. He was admired with a feeling of awe by everybody who knows him. He attracted attention of the business circle for his activities of M & A (Mergers and Acquisition). In public of Japan he was known as an owner of many racehorses. I have always had an impression that he was quite different from many company presidents. He valued science and technology as a base supporting his company. His belief was that the growth of his company would be difficult without the progress of powder technology and science. He expressed his gratitude to this academic field not by talk but by action. Many years before the Hosokawa group became a big company, he was contributing much to the development and promotion of powder technology and science. In 1957 he launched a journal "The Micromeritics", which is an annual publication, named "Funsai" in Japanese. The 1957 is such a year when Japan entered an age of high economic growth. At that time the name of his company was not "Hosokawa Micron Corp." but "Hosokawa Iron Works, Ltd.". He was in early 30s and a young managing director. After taking over the presidency from his father, he steered the company toward its globalization. The contents of the first issue of "The

Yutaka Tsuji

"Micromeritics" were introductions of technology developed in Hosokawa, but from the second issue "The Micromeritics" came up with academic aspects presenting original papers and reviews by researchers besides the information of the company. Hosokawa Iron Works held the first Symposium of Powder Technology in 1968 under his leadership to promote powder technology and science. The Party of Powder Technology (Japan) was organized around that time as a group planning the symposium. The Party of Powder Technology (Japan) changed its name to the Council of Powder Technology later. The Council is formed by university professors. The Micromeritics journal and the Symposium of Powder Technology have been continued without interruption up to the present. Publishing the journal for 54 years and holding the symposium for 43 years are enough to admire Hosokawa Micron's contribution to academics. What surprised many companies and researchers in Japan and other countries about Hosokawa Micron was that this company issued an English journal named "KONA" in 1983. Those days it was hard to imagine that a small Japanese company of powder machinery published an academic journal in English. At first, the purpose of KONA was to introduce good research papers in Japanese to the world by translating them to English, but later it changed to an international journal publishing papers from all over the world. In 1991, he established the Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation and became the president of the Foundation. The basic fund was from Mr. Hosokawa. The foundation activities include providing research grants, holding the symposium and publishing KONA Powder and Particle Journal. Nearly 20 years have gone by since the start of the foundation and the total of grantees reaches a big number.

All these activities of Hosokawa Micron Corp. have been done under his strong leadership. Numerous services he rendered during his life time are great and immeasurable. With grateful appreciation for his services, I offer this token of my deepest sympathy.