

OPENING ADDRESS

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen;

On the occasion of the opening of the 15th International Conference on the Physics of Semiconductors in 1980, it is a great honor and pleasure for me to give an opening address on behalf of the Physical Society of Japan.

First of all, I would like to extend my cordial welcome to the President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, Professor Sosnowski, and the members of the IUPAP Semiconductor Commission, and to all the participants, particularly to about 400 overseas delegates and their families, who have come from 31 countries throughout the world.

The development of the physics of semiconductors is really spectacular. In step with this outstanding progress, the research activity has been extended to other areas of solid state physics such as magnetism, quantum optics and electronics and other interdisciplinary fields.

In the physics of semiconductors the fundamental research and practical applications are very closely related. The discovery of transistor action in germanium is a typical example. The results of research have directly brought about a number of practical applications, and inversely the needs of practical applications have acted to stimulate fundamental research.

Such remarkable progress in the physics of semiconductors owes much to the contributions of the International Conference on the Physics of Semiconductors. First, it is essential that the active researchers throughout the world meet each other and exchange information and discuss their new ideas at these International Conferences. Secondly, these conferences provide important stimulation to younger researchers who can come in contact with leading researchers in the world. Not only are the younger people encouraged in their research in physics but they are also inspired by the examples of the world renowned people whom they meet.

On the other hand, however, this International Conference has grown rather enormous and could have become almost unmanageable. I think the members of the Organizing Committee must be congratulated for making the arrangements of this 15th Conference in such a way that it can function so efficiently.

It is the second time that we have had the pleasure of hosting the International Conference on the Physics of Semiconductors here in Kyoto. There will be some participants here today who also attended the last Conference. However, this will be the first visit to Kyoto for many of the participants who have come from

overseas. I hope that they will have an opportunity to enjoy the city of Kyoto as well as attending the Conference, and that they will return home with a warm understanding and appreciation of Japanese life and culture.

Finally I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to those who have helped the Organizing Committee and to the business organizations who have provided the financial support to the International Conference on the Physics of Semiconductors.

I have no doubt that this Conference will prove successful not only in the study of semiconductors but also in strengthening the fraternal bonds of the researchers of all the countries in the world.

Thank you.