

Welcome Message from Japanese Ministry

Honorable chairman, Eminent professors, distinguished scientists and scholars, ladies and gentlemen;

It is my pleasure to say few words on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture of Japan (Monbusho) at the opening of International Symposium on Advance in Neutron Optics and Related Facilities. First of all, I would like to express my hearty welcome to all the participants here today. Especially it is a very good event that a large number of famous researchers in neutron optics and related fields from all over the world are gathered here in Kumatori.

Monbusho has approved in 1995 the re-organization project of the research divisions in the Research Reactor Institute, Kyoto University, KURRI, and also have been promoting special supports to KURRI as one of the Center-of-Excellence (COE) Institute which is playing important roles in the research fields with joint uses of the research reactor, KUR, and the related experimental facilities surrounding the reactor.

I would like to mention Monbusho has started a 5-year extensive program from 1995, so-called COE program in order to stimulate and enhance the advanced scientific researches in Japan. The program consists of two categories, one is more or less concentrated financial supports to solidified research projects and also to attractive international collaborations by joint use research institute such as KURRI, and the other category is efficient encouragement and support to the activities of organizing active and high-leveled collaboration groups by university researchers. The present International Symposium, NOK'96 proposed by Professor Utsumo of KURRI, is supported by Monbusyo as one of these COE programs for promoting international communications in the field utilizing the research reactor KUR in this institute.

We hear that the research fields of neutron optics is recently coming to the most attractive and developing stage in the history of modern science characterized by quantum mechanics. The Nobel prize given to Professors Shull and Brockhouse has impressed to the world the continuing extensions and ever growing interest of neutron science. In this important stage on neutron science, it should be a very much valuable event that you, as the most active and excellent researchers around the world, gathered here to present and discuss up-to-date results and progresses.

In closing, I sincerely hope that the efforts of all you distinguished participants will become a decisive, contributing factor towards far deeper understanding on neutron optics and related sciences, and therefore towards the possible establishment of evolved concepts in modern science and related techniques. At the same time, we also hope that this Symposium will be in scientific sense enriching for each one of you.

Thank you very much.

K. Ichikawa

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