

Welcome Address

Mr. Chairman, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure and a privilege for me to welcome all the participants of the International Symposium on Advance in Neutron Optics and Related Research Facilities, (Neutron Optics Kumatori '96). On behalf of the organizing committee of this International Symposium and Research Reactor Institute, Kyoto University, I am very happy to have those many attendants gathered at Kumatori. I would like to thank all participants for their interest and efforts in helping us make this Symposium possible, especially those who have traveled great distances and taken valuable time from their busy schedules to attend the symposium. We are pleased to have the opportunity, during this symposium, to exchange scientific thought and experiences with our colleagues and to review new developments in neutron optics and related research facilities.

There are several reasons for organizing this Symposium.

First, research on neutron optics is growing and developing very rapidly. Therefore, it was highly desirable that interested scientists gather to report new advances, to review the wave behavior of neutrons in regard to the theory, to discuss conflicting experimental findings, and to provide new methods and new lines of investigation. Second, the idea of having an international symposium on neutron optics arose one year ago as one of the commemorative events of the reorganization of the Research Reactor Institute, Kyoto University. At that time our Institute had planned to reorganize the research divisions and to carry out a modernization program of the Kyoto University Reactor and its related facilities. The plan officially started on the last April. One of our most important research projects is production and storage of very low energy neutrons and studies on their optical phenomena. Finally, this meeting aims to provide an opportunity to establish and renew personal relationships between participants from all over the world.

In conclusion, we all hope that you will find on this visit a chance to enjoy the atmosphere and learn more of the culture of Japan. May your stay be enjoyable and the symposium a resounding success. I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the financial support given by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. and other organizations. The symposium is also supported by Physical Society of Japan, Atomic Energy Society of Japan and Japanese Society of Applied Physics (Division of Radiation Science).

Yutaka Maeda

General Chairman of the Organizing Committee
Director General of Research Reactor Institute, Kyoto University