

PREFACE

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRITIUM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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This tritium conference, originally the “ANS Topical Meeting on Fission, Fusion, and Isotopic Applications,” has changed its name to the “International Conference on Tritium Science and Technology” to express the emerging fields related to tritium, both academic and technological, while continuing the excellent tradition of the five previous meetings. The conference, held in Asia for the first time, took place in Tsukuba, Japan, on November 12–16, 2001. More than 200 attendees came from fourteen countries and one organization, which is the largest number ever. Attendees from all the countries were invited to present their countries’ domestic activities, and most did so, which resulted in a unique and interesting plenary session. Active research efforts in the countries such as those in Eastern Europe and Asia are very encouraging for world tritium studies.

Of the 195 presented papers, a considerable number of the papers were on fusion-related research, which is certainly the most important application of tritium in this age. Fusion tritium study is not expanding as fast as in the past, but it now shows its technical maturity and academic advances focusing on ITER, actual burning plasma of plant scale, as well as future fusion energy steps. On the other hand, in response to the encouragement of the technical program committee, papers on other peaceful studies of tritium in fission technology, biological and environmental study, and new applications of tritium for physics research increased significantly, which indicates the expanse and possibilities of tritium science and technology. Technical tours offered visits to fusion and radioactive waste research facilities in the Tokai area. Besides the academic program, the participants enjoyed various social and cultural events against the backdrop of beautiful late autumn in Japan.

The technical program committee and the guest editors made an ambitious commitment not to compromise the quality of the papers to be published in *Fusion Science and Technology (FS&T)* while meeting the schedule of the May 2002 issue of *FS&T*. All the contributed papers were evaluated by the normal review process by two or sometimes more referees. Only papers that reached a high standard and met the criteria were accepted for publication. With the constraints of the schedule and large number of papers to be processed, this accomplishment was made possible only by the tremendous effort of many volunteer referees and devoted meeting secretariats. The guest editors express special thanks to Dr. T. Yamanishi for his assistance.

Although, in the end, the conference was successful, it was held under very difficult circumstances after the tragic events of September 11, which resulted in many international academic events suffering serious reductions of activities. We held the conference under our belief that our close international collaborations will further world peace. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants for their cooperation and most of all Prof. M. Nishikawa, Dr. H. Kishimoto, Secretary General M. Nishi, and all other supporting staffs.

The next conference will be held in Baden-Baden, Germany, in Autumn 2004.