

ASSOCIATE EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Japan is eagerly pursuing research and development of nuclear fusion reactors due to a national shortage of energy resources. Almost all types of plasma confinement systems and most areas of nuclear fusion technology are being investigated in Japan. Fusion research in Japan is mainly supported by three government organizations: the Ministry of Education, the Science and Technology Agency, and the Ministry of International Trade and Industries. This issue of *Fusion Technology* is probably the first time all aspects of Japanese fusion research have been covered in a single volume. The authors of the papers in this issue are researchers from universities, national institutes and industry, government officers, and institute research planners. The roles of the various organizations in fusion research are clearly defined in these papers.

The *Fusion Technology* staff is deeply indebted to Professor M. Akiyama of the University of Tokyo for his efforts in arranging this issue and to all those who helped him. We hope this issue triggers new international collaborations in the field of fusion research.

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