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MMC Activities

The 8th International Micromachine / Nanotech Symposium

The 8th International Micromachine / Nanotech Symposium was held at the Science Museum in Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo, on November 14, 2002. The symposium program began with an opening address by Mr. Toshiro Shimoyama, Chairman of the Micromachine Center, followed by a guest speech by Mr. Masakazu Toyoda, Director-General of the Manufacturing Industries Bureau, METI. In his address, Mr. Toyoda not only spoke about the importance of MEMS technology, which integrates nanotechnology, to Japanese industry, but also expressed words of encouragement regarding promotional activities of the Micromachine Center.

The symposium was very successful, with the venue packed to almost full capacity. In total, participants numbered 311, including 227 registered participants, presenters, members of the press and others.

A special lecture presented by Professor Isao Shimoyama of the University of Tokyo, "Strategy towards Fusion of Nano and Micro Systems," attracted the greatest attention within the industries. Painting an image of the future of Micromachine and MEMS using

the slogan "Nano on Micro," Professor Shimoyama stated that, in particular, the development and industrialization of devices with high added value and into which nano materials or technologies have been actively incorporated are vitally important for Japan's future.

Other presentations included "The Path to New Industries in the 21st Century," "Innovative R&D," and "National Strategy for Micro/Nano Fusion Domain." In all, a total of thirteen invited speakers, including four from overseas, addressed the symposium.

Of the registered participants, 82% were industry-related researchers or management persons, 12% belonged to public agencies such as the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), 5% from universities, and 1% were from other professions. This breakdown is especially indicative of the high interest in this symposium shown by researchers in the industries.

The next symposium, The 9th International Micromachine / Nanotech Symposium, is planned for November 13, 2003 (Thursday).

