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MMC Activities

The 9th International Micromachine / Nanotech Symposium

The 9th International Micromachine / Nanotech Symposium, which has the subtitle of "Foundation of Industrial Technology in the 21st Century" was held on November 13, 2003, at the Science Museum in Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo. It was organized by Micromachine Center, and was supported by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and New Energy Developing Organization (NEDO), and was subsidized by Japan Motorcycle Racing Organization. The lectures and a panel discussion was a resounding success, as attendees participated actively in the panel discussion and lively exchanged opinions with panelists.

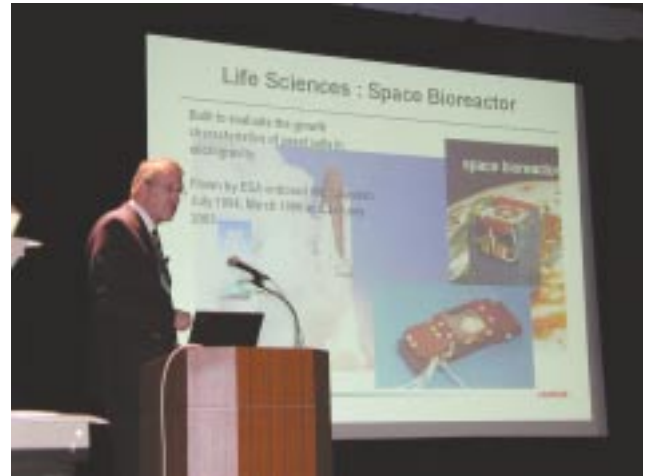


Opening Address by Mr. Toshiro Shimoyama

In Session 1, "Opening", an opening address was given by Mr. Toshiro Shimoyama, Chairman of the Micromachine Center, followed by a guest speech by Mr. Sakae Takahashi, Executive Director of NEDO. Mr. Takahashi spoke in particular about the MEMS project begun in Fiscal 2003 as part of the METI program "Focus 21", and expressed his appreciation to the daily contributions of researchers cooperating on NEDO projects and activities of the Micromachine Center.



Special Lecture by Prof. Stephen D. Senturia



Special Lecture by Prof. Nico F. de Rooij

The opening ceremony was followed by two special lectures presented by pioneers in the field of MEMS in the West. The first lecture was presented by Professor Nico F. de Rooij of the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland, on the theme of "MEMS and Opportunities for University / Industry Technology Transfer". The lecture discussed cases of technology transfer to industry in which the University of Neuchatel was involved and the products thus developed. The second was presented by Professor Stephen D. Senturia of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S.A., on "Turning MEMS Ideas into MEMS Products". The lecture discussed the past and present of MEMS, future trends for MEMS, and points to be considered to commercialize the MEMS ideas.

Session 2, which has the theme of "The Path to New Industries in the 21st Century", featured three lectures; Session 3, which has the theme of "Innovative R&D", featured four lectures; and Session 4, which has the theme of "Strategy for Micro / Nano Technology (Exploring of New MEMS Development)", featured four lectures. In all, thirteen invited speakers, including six from overseas, addressed in the symposium. A panel discussion was made on the

theme of "MEMS industrialization" in Session 4. Seven panelists answered to the questions from audience, the lively exchange of Q & A attracted interest of the entire venue.

Of the 218 registered participants, about 83% were industry-related persons who are mostly researchers and the managers, 8% belonged to public agencies such as the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), 7% were from universities, and 2% were from other professions. This analysis shows that this symposium especially attracts industrial researchers for their R & D. In total, participants numbered 297, including registered participants, invited guests, members of the press and others. With the venue very vibrant from beginning to the end, the symposium was a great success. Micromachine Center would like to express deepest thanks to all participants and everyone to cooperate us.

The next symposium, The 10th International Micromachine / Nanotech Symposium, will be held on November 11 (Thu), 2004, at the same Science Museum in Kitanomaru Park, Tokyo, which is located near the Imperial Palace, in conjunction with The 15th Micromachine Exhibition.



Panel Discussion