

A report on the 13th Micromachine Summit, held in Venice, Italy

1. 100 participants from 18 countries

The three-day 13th Micromachine Summit was held at the Telecom Future Centre, in the Italian city of Venice, from April 26 to 28. This year's summit was attended by 100 delegates and observers (there were 88 last year) from 18 nations - Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea, Romania, Singapore, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. Romania was represented for the first time at a Micromachine Summit. The chief delegate of the Japanese team was Isao Shimoyama of The University of Tokyo, and there were 9 other observers from Japan.

2. Fifty-five presentations over four sessions

Professor Paolo Dario of The Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies of Pisa acted as General Chair at the meeting, and ITC-irst's Mario Zen as General Co-Chair. There were 55 presentations given at the following four sessions held between the 26th and 28th.

Session 1 Country/Region Review

Session 2 Tools for Growth: Strategies, Cooperation, Infrastructures and Education,

Session 3 From Research to Commercialization and Standardization: Market, Industrialization and Standardization

Session 4 New Concepts and Technologies

3. Five presentations from Japan by Professor Shimoyama and others

In Session 1, Professor Shimoyama gave a presentation entitled "Fine MEMS - The Highly Integrated, Complex MEMS Project", which was a mid-term report on the project that started last year. In Session 3, MMC executive director Keiichi Aoyagi gave a presentation under the title "MEMS Industry Forum: Market, Standardization and Industry Development," describing the work of the Center with an emphasis on the MEMS Industry Forum. Dr. Koichi Karaki, an executive of Olympus Corporation who was attending as an observer, gave a presentation entitled "Recent Progress of MEMS and Nano-Technology at Olympus." In Session 4, Dr. Masao Arakawa, Director of Matsushita Electric Works, delivered a presentation on "Wafer Level Packaging Technology at Matsushita Electric Works" and Omron executive Koichi Imanaka on "Recent Activity on Micro/Nano Technology at OMRON Corporation."

All the Japanese presentations were detailed in content and well-received by the audience, no doubt reinforcing Japan's position as the permanent secretariat of the summit. A technical tour took place on the 28th, with a visit to NanoFab, part of the MEMS and nanotech cluster in the Veneto region, after which the meeting drew to a successful conclusion.

4. The 14th Summit will be held in South Korea

It has been decided that the 14th summit will be held in the South Korean city of Daejeon, from Wednesday, April 30 2008 to Saturday, May 3. We are confident that the Micromachine Summit will continue to serve as an opportunity for lively international exchange in the MEMS and nanotech fields, and hope that all our colleagues will fully use these opportunities.



The participants gather in the courtyard of the Future Telecom Center



Japan's chief delegate, Professor Shimoyama of The University of Tokyo delivers his presentation