14th World Micromachine Summit (April 30 - May 3)

The 14th World Micromachine Summit was held for four days from Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the Hotel Riviera (Dynasty Hall) in Daeieon, Korea.

Since the first Micromachine Summit was held in 1995 in Kyoto, the summit has been held each year in a different country chosen from among those wishing to act as host. This year's 14th summit featured the addition of the Iberian region and Romania, making a total of 18 countries or regions (Australia, the Benelux countries, Canada, China. the EC. France. Germany, the Iberian region, India, Japan, Korea,



the Mediterranean region, the Nordic region, Romania, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United States). 56 representatives and 43 observers from 26 of these nations and regions attended for a total of 99 participants.

This year's summit began with a review of the situation in each country or region, presented by the chief representative from that country/region. This was followed by presentations from 32 representatives on the status of activities in each region and future prospects. The presentations were divided into five categories:

- (1) Technical overview
- (2) Cutting-edge technologies
- (3) Market standardization and industrialization trends
- (4) Education and technology platforms
- (5) Foundry and cluster networks

The chief delegate from Japan was Professor Isao Shimoyama of the University of Tokyo. There were 10 participants in all including observers. Three presentations were made by the Japanese delegation.

In the country/region review, Professor Shimoyama of Tokyo University gave a presentation covering the position of MEMS in Japan's science and technology policy, a technical strategy map for the MEMS industry, a roadmap for standardization, the role and activities of the MEMS Industry Forum, MemsONE, Fine MEMS, BEANS and other aspects of the status of national project promotion in Japan. Kazuo Kyuma, senior managing officer at Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, presented an overview of the nextgeneration BEANS project. Koichi Karaki, executive officer at Olympus Corporation, presented an introduction of MEMS technologies.

At this year's summit, the presentations from each country regarding the current state of MEMS technology covered such matters as the construction of a new 8" line and accelerated mass production that includes CMOS MEMS. With regard to next-generation MEMS technologies, the presentations focused on the creation of new processes and devices through nanotechnology, biotechnology and the fusing of different fields. It was clear from the presentations that countries around the world are moving in roughly same direction in their pursuit of the micro/nanotechnology research and development. Moreover, the emergence of MEMS developing nations and regions such as India, Iberia and China thanks to active support by national and local governments in these nations and regions was also noteworthy.

Technical tours were conducted on the first and fourth days of the summit, before and after the twoday conference. Tour participants visited LG Electronics Institute of Technology, Samsung Electro-Mechanics, the Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials (KIMM), the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI), the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB), and National Nanofab.

Next year's summit will be held in Edmunton, Canada May 5 - 8, 2009.

The World Micromachine Summit is expected to continue to grow in influence as a forum for international interchange relating to MEMS and nanotechnology. The Micromachine Center hopes that this summit will continue to prove valuable to people around the world.