

# Activities of the MEMS Industry Forum

## 1. Preparations for MicroNano 2010

The micromachine exposition MicroNano 2010 will be held at Tokyo Big Sight on July 28–30, 2010. The MEMS Industry Forum (MIF) and the organizer Mesago Messe Frankfurt Corporation are currently finalizing plans and arrangements for the exhibits, seminars, and other concurrent events. The following is a schedule for the major seminars.

- International Micromachine/Nanotech Symposium: July 28, afternoon, Conference Area A
- BEANS Project Seminar: July 29, Conference Area B
- ROBOTECH Seminar: July 30, Conference Area B

As with last year's exposition, there are also plans to hold the MEMS Industry Forum Workshop as a venue for the MIF to disseminate information, and the Workshop on Industry and University Cooperation focusing on information presented by universities promoting industry-academia collaboration. We would like to encourage any institution looking for an opportunity to introduce their activities, particularly in the latter forum, to contact us.

## 2. The Committee to Promote the MEMS Industry Forum

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee to Promote the MEMS Industry Forum (Chair: Kazuo Kyuma, senior managing executive officer at Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Advanced Technology R&D Center) was held on January 29, FY 2009 at the Shoko Kaikan (Kasumigaseki), 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. The committee meeting was attended by representatives of eleven member companies, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), as well as Isao Shimoyama, vice-chair of the MIF and professor of the University of Tokyo. Among the features of this meeting were a report on the current fiscal year's activities and achievements by the MIF, a discussion of the future approach for advanced R&D projects such as BEANS, and a lively exchange of opinions on the MEMS R&D center at the Tsukuba Innovation Arena.

Member companies expressed their expectations for the BEANS Project, the Gdevice@BEANS project that was selected this year through a public invitation from NEDO to utilize the results of the BEANS Project, and the Tsukuba Innovation Arena N-MEMS (provisional title JMEC) being promoted by industry, academia, and government. Some attendees noted the significance of becoming competitive internationally as individual companies by concentrating research at a national research center, as well as the importance of promoting both international collaboration that includes Asia, and open innovation.

Representatives from METI and NEDO expressed a hope for utilizing national projects and research centers, while distinguishing between applications for concentrated in-house resources and applications for external resources. Additionally, the organizations requested information related to application in demand.

We hope to continue providing such a venue to bring together industry, academia, and government for an exchange of opinions and to incorporate the results of these meetings in the activities of the MIF.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee to Promote the MEMS Industry Forum (Jan. 29)

## 3. Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Tsukuba Innovation Workshop

The 5<sup>th</sup> Tsukuba Innovation Workshop was held on February 15 and 16 at the auditorium of AIST Tsukuba Central to discuss the requirements for making the Tsukuba Innovation Arena (TIA) genuinely effective. The 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop was attended by leaders from noted overseas R&D centers involved in nanotechnology (IMEC, LETI, Fraunhofer, et al.) and featured lectures on management and networking, as well as a panel discussion. During the N-MEMS session on the second day, the Micromachine Center gave an overview of the Japan MEMS Enhancement Consortium (JMEC; provisional name) currently under consideration.

Representatives from Berkeley Sensor & Actuator Center (BSAC) and LETI shared their expertise and philosophy on how to implement research projects to get the best results and described their related activities at Korea's National NanoFab Center and in Singapore. We were impressed with how candidly the speakers from overseas were in relating their own experiences and offering advice, and felt the workshop was very meaningful and rewarding.

## 4. Nationwide Expansion of the Personnel Training Program

It is our belief that favorable industrial growth can be achieved through the systematic implementation of personnel training required for MEMS-related industries. In the next fiscal year, the MIF plans to establish a committee for promoting personnel training built around members of organizations in all parts of Japan that are involved in collaboration among industry, academia, and government; to formulate a master plan for the personnel training program; and to provide coordination among research centers.

The New Industry Research Organization in Hyogo Prefecture, the Kitakyushu Foundation for the Advancement of Industry, Science, and Technology, and an organization for promoting collaboration among industry, academia, and government at Tohoku University will serve as head offices for operations in their respective regions, while AIST Tsukuba will function to implement a portion of the courses and to act as an overall advisor. The MMC will serve as the secretariat for these committees and plans to bear the role of head office for operations in the Kanto region and Japan overall. Since there has been a large demand for personnel training nationwide, we ask you all for your support and cooperation in this project.