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Topic The MicroNano Exposition Returns to a Growing Trend with a Strong Showing in 2010

July 28–30, 2010 Tokyo Big Sight, East Hall 5/6

21st Exhibition Micromachine/MEMS ROBOTECH Exhibition on Next-Generation Service Robot Manufacturing Technologies
 <Concurrent events> 16th International Micromachine/Nanotech Symposium, TIA-NMEMS Symposium, and more
 (SURTECH 2010 Exhibition on Surface Technology held concurrently)



The micromachine exposition MicroNano 2010 was held at Tokyo Big Sight on July 28–30, 2010. This year's exposition welcomed more than 14,000 visitors over the three-day event, an increase of 15% over last year's total, and occupied 349 exhibit spaces, up approximately 10% over the previous year. With no let-up in the severe economic climate, this performance validates the great effort spent to recover from last year's decline in attendance.

MicroNano 2010 featured the first inclusion of ROBOTECH, an exhibition highlighting manufacturing technologies for service robots. The new addition attracted much media attention, enabling us to promote the feasibility of service robots as a promising field for MEMS applications.

The 16th International Micromachine/Nanotech Symposium adopted a theme on the link between MEMS technology and Green Innovation, while the TIA-NMEMS Symposium provided a venue to discuss the formation of a center in Tsukuba and to introduce the activities of the MEMS Industry Forum (MIF) toward this realization. The BEANS Project, facing interim evaluations with the passage of its first two years, held a seminar to present the achievements and outlook of the project. All seminars saw high attendance and realized our goal of offering comprehensive MEMS-related information at one venue, while also providing opportunities for business discussions.

Next year's exposition will be held on July 13–15, slightly earlier than in previous years. We hope to see many of you at the exposition, either as exhibitors or visitors.

TIA-NMEMS Symposium

The TIA-NMEMS Symposium was held in MicroNano Conference Area A on July 30 as one of the concurrent events. This symposium was established to present some of the activities in the works for implementing a Tsukuba nanotech center.

The Tsukuba Innovation Arena NMEMS (TIA-NMEMS) is an R&D center for the field of micro-/nano-electromechanical systems, which is one of the six core domains of the Tsukuba nanotech center. It is hoped that TIA-NMEMS will fill an important role in helping to make Japan's MEMS industry more competitive internationally.



Although the symposium was scheduled for a timeslot just thirty minutes after the doors of the hall were opened, the 210-seat conference area was fully occupied. All of the speakers were people occupying positions of responsibility, including METI Senior Vice Minister Tadahiro Matsushita and AIST President Tamotsu Nomakuchi (pictured above), which likely raised the profile of the symposium. In his lecture, Nomakuchi talked about efforts being conducted to improve Japan's system of developing intellectual property in order to distinguish domestic research institutes from their counterparts overseas. Representatives from other companies expressed high expectations for the R&D projects carried out at TIA-NMEMS to bolster their own company's competitiveness.

ROBOTECH

Many advanced nations are facing a declining birthrate and aging population, as well as a declining workforce, critical issues that may be addressed by extensively incorporating service robots in our daily lives. The aim of the ROBOTECH exhibition is to assemble MEMS devices and other key elements for developing these service robots in order to promote promising applications for MEMS. (METI Senior Vice Minister Tadahiro Matsushita is shown here at ROBOTECH.)

The ROBOTECH Theme Zone showcased operations and functions of actual robots developed by robot-related companies in Osaka and Kanagawa, as well as university-related institutes, and drew much attention at the exhibition.



**Next Year's MicroNano 2011 To Be Held
 July 13–15 (Wed-Fri), 2011 at Tokyo Big Sight, East Hall**