

Norwegian Education and Research Minister Clemet visits AIST Tsukuba

On May 30, 2005, Ms. Clemet, the Minister of Education and Research of the Kingdom of Norway, visited AIST Tsukuba, together with Norwegian Ambassador to Japan Grutle and others. AIST's Senior Vice President Kodama and International Affairs Department Director-General Matsuo offered them an explanation of the organization's reforms and research strategies, which was followed by an active discussion on scientific and technological research and development. After Director Owadano of the Energy Technology Research Institute outlined his organization's research activities, Senior Research Scientist Sakai from the Institute's Fuel Cell Group, who was present there at the



strong request of the Norwegian side, made a presentation describing her research and her interaction with Norwegian scientists, including her experience during her stay in Norway as a student. Ms. Clemet praised the presentation and emphasized the importance of the involvement of the younger generation in research collaborations.

While the minister expressed some frank opinions, including remarks on the small number of female scientists at AIST, the meeting was held in a congenial atmosphere. Ms. Clemet ended her visit by referring to the discussion as having been very frank and fruitful.