

A Visit to Tsukuba by Senior Vice Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of Czech Republic, President Yoshikawa becomes a Member of the Industrial Academy of Czech Republic

On May 22nd, the Third Czech-Japan Science and Technology Days took place at Ark Mori Building in Tokyo. After greetings by Pavel Komárek, Czech Senior Vice Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, and by Shotaro Yauchi, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, several talks followed, and from Japan, Yoshikawa, President of AIST, gave a lecture titled “Innovations for Sustainability”. 33 Czechs and 102 Japanese attended the event.



Petr Zuna gives a diploma to Yoshikawa

On May 24th, many members of the Czech delegation visited AIST Tsukuba Center. First, Katsura, Senior Vice-President of AIST and Czech Senior Vice Minister Komárek gave their greeting speeches, and after some discussion, the party visited the Science Square Tsukuba where they saw recent studies done in the fields of metrology and measurement, robotics etc.



Discussion at Tsukuba Center

Furthermore, on May 23rd, Yoshikawa was given a diploma by Petr Zuna, Chairman of the Czech Engineering Academy (Honorary Rector of Czech Technical University) and has become a foreign member of the Czech Engineering Academy. The academy was founded in February 1995 in order to tie research with development, to increase the competitiveness of Czech economy, and to help enhance the technical education. The academy members include 128 Czechs, 22 foreigners, of which 4 are Japanese including Yoshikawa.

Presently, there are active collaborative research being done between AIST and Czech research institutions in fields as water treatment, and organic chemical reaction control. After this visit, we hope for a further development with our collaboration.

A Joint Symposium between AIST and Taiwan Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)

A joint symposium between AIST and Taiwan Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) was held at Tsukuba on May 30th, 31st, and Johnsee Lee, President, and about 20 others from ITRI, and Katsura, Senior Vice-President, Yamazaki, Vice-President in charge of International Affairs, heads of joint research projects and many others from AIST attended.

AIST and ITRI signed a package agreement in September 2005, and since then, there are joint research projects being carried out in various fields. The first joint symposium was held before the agreement in February 2003, and the second in September 2005.

At the third symposium held this year, there was an active exchange of information in the four workshops of nanotechnology, energy technology (photovoltaics, biomass, photocatalyst, and new fuel), optoelectronics, and intelligent system. At the conclusive session, the summary and future



Katsura, Senior Vice-President of AIST

collaboration plans for the workshops were reported. In the fields of photovoltaics and photocatalyst where collaboration is well underway, there were specific suggestions on the ways to further strengthen the collaboration. In other new fields, there were discussions on possible directions of collaboration.

ITRI is a research institution which is the parental base of the Taiwan industry which is highly competitive in the production of high-tech products such as semiconductors. The institute is highly keen on product realization of research results, and, with the President, much discussion was done on this matter as well as on innovation management.



Johnsee Lee, President of ITRI



A Visit by Pascal Couchepin, Vice-President of the Swiss Federation

On July 9th, Pascal Couchepin, Vice-President / Federal Councillor of the Swiss Federation visited AIST Tsukuba Center along with the Swiss Ambassador, Paul Fivat and Konrad Osterwalder, President of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich and others.

One of the main purposes of their visit was to see the progress being made in research for renewable energy and new energy. Kamimoto and Yamabe, both Research Coordinators Environment and Energy, Owadano, Director of Energy Technology Research Institute gave presentations of the works being done at AIST, and afterwards there was an active exchange of questions and answers.

After hearing a presentation by Kondo, Director of Research Center for Photovoltaics at the center itself, they

visited various other research facilities. The party left the center leaving words that they were highly impressed with the research being done at AIST.

From this visit, we hope for a development in research collaboration between AIST and Swiss research institutions in fields related to the environment and energy and others.



Kondo explains to Vice-President.

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TODAY**

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