

## **Report on the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual ISE Meeting, Niigata, Japan, September 11-16, 2011.**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual ISE Meeting, held at the TOKI MESSE Niigata Convention Center located on the banks of the Shinano River at its estuary on the Sea of Japan, attracted 1242 participants from 43 different countries/regions. The convention center is named after the *toki*, or Japanese Crested Ibis (*Nipponia nippon*). Niigata City has long prospered as a town at the mouth of the longest river in Japan, the Shinano River. The elegance of the old days still remains in this city full of charm, with a wealth of tradition, culture, and the arts. It is blessed with surroundings of great natural beauty, including the Sea of Japan, the Shinano River and the Echigo Mountains.

The main theme of the Meeting was “Electrochemical Frontiers in Global Environment and Energy”, which is both relevant and challenging to the many changes affecting the world today. The wide scope of all the ISE Divisions’ activities was excellently covered.

At the Opening Ceremony, the participants were welcomed by Tetsuya Osaka, Chair of the Organizing Committee, Mark Orazem, ISE President, and Tadashi Matsunaga, President of The Electrochemical Society of Japan. The 2010 ISE Award winners were announced by Marco Musiani, ISE Executive Secretary. Toshiyuki Momma as Secretary General of the Organizing Committee chaired the ceremony.

The scientific contributions from the participants were extensive and excellent in quality. The five plenary lectures were presented by Ulrich Stimming (Germany) as the Electrochimica Acta Gold Medal Winner, Richard Alkire (USA), Jean-Marie Tarascon (France), Tadashi Matsunaga (Japan), and Klaus-Dieter Kreuer (Germany). The award winners who presented their work in Niigata included Shi-Gang Sun (Brian Conway Prize for Physical Electrochemistry), Shelley Minter (Tajima Prize), Marian Chatenet (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Prize of ISE on Applied Electrochemistry), Ignacio Sirés Sadornil (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Prize of ISE on Environmental Electrochemistry), Minghua Zhou (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Prize of ISE on Environmental Electrochemistry) and Katarzyna Szot (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Young Author Prize). In total the program included 5 plenary lectures, 50 keynote lectures, 496 oral communications and 579 posters presentations, distributed among 14 Symposia. The poster presentations were separated into two sessions. A special session celebrating the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) 2011 was held to show the importance and relevance of electrochemical science and technology in society in the past, present and future - in industry, energy, environment and health. Two excellent tutorial lectures were presented on Sunday afternoon: “Quantitative SNIFTIRS and PMIRRAS studies of adsorbates at electrode surfaces” by Jacek Lipkowski, and “Electrocatalytic reactions revealed by time-resolved surface-enhanced infrared absorption spectroscopy (SEIRAS)” by Masatoshi Osawa. Both were extremely successful, each with more than 140 attendees.

The participants could also enjoy many social activities during the week.

The Welcome Reception on Sunday evening and the two Exhibitor and Posters Receptions on Monday and Tuesday evening were greatly successful, with a large participation.

Participants had the choice of four excursions: 1) Feel the Niigata culture now and then, 2) Agano River Line Boat Ride, 3) Visit the two-hundreds-year-old *sake* brewery, 4) Take a walk in Niigata city.

The banquet, on Thursday evening, took place at Hotel Nikko Niigata with the participation of more than 320 persons. After a short ceremony to break open the lid of the *sake* barrel by a

wooden mallet, *sake* was served to participants. Exquisite Japanese food including *sushi* and *tempura* was served as a buffet style. Furumachi Geigi, female entertainers in Niigata City with tradition continuing for more than 200 years, performed traditional Japanese dances.

The Local Organizing Committee presented the exhibition and test ride of electric vehicle (EV), plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) and fuel cell vehicle (FCV), of which development relates to the main theme of the Meeting, on Tuesday and Wednesday. The participants could enjoy a five-hundreds-meter test ride (with the driver) of EV and FCV at the truck yard surrounding TOKI MESSE.

On the occasion of IYC 2011, the Local Organizing Committee also presented Marie Curie International Contest of Battery on Sunday afternoon, in cooperation with The Electrochemical Society of Japan.

During the conference, ISE held meetings pertaining to the organization of the Society: Regional Representatives' Meeting, Division Officers' Meeting, Council Meeting and General Assembly. Each of the seven Divisions of ISE held a luncheon meeting in which the members were asked to provide input and suggestions for future activities, especially at the forthcoming Annual Meetings.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the delegates for their excellent oral and poster presentations contributing to a high quality scientific meeting. We deeply appreciate the encouragement and cooperation to hold the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual ISE Meeting in Japan as scheduled, after the earthquake and tsunami waves struck the northeast region of Japan on March 11, and the attendance of our colleagues around the world. This Meeting was organized in association with The Electrochemical Society of Japan (ECSJ), The Committee of Battery Technology, ECSJ, Japan Association of Chemical Sensors, ECSJ, and The Committee of Capacitor Technology, ECSJ and contributed by Tokyo Ohka Foundation for The Promotion of Science and Technology. The support and cooperation of Niigata City and Niigata Prefecture towards holding of this meeting are greatly appreciated. Special thanks also go to all who contributed in any way to the organization, sponsorship and success of the Meeting.

Cordially yours,

Tetsuya Osaka and Toshiyuki Momma

Chair and Secretary General, the Organizing Committee of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual ISE Meeting



the exhibition and test ride of electric vehicle



banquet on Sep. 15th