

Preface

The 8th Japan-China-Korea Workshop on Microgravity Sciences for Asian Microgravity Pre-Symposium was successfully organized in Sendai, Japan during 22nd -24th September 2010. More than 180 participants contributed their new results and talks for the workshop and continued discussion till 21:30. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those who participated in the workshop and contributed to this proceeding.

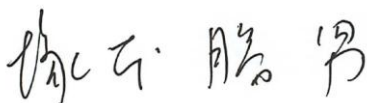
The primary focus of these conferences has been to bring the recent developments of space utilization in areas related to science and technology at a single platform and to facilitate scientific discussions among the researchers. Apart from these objectives, successful organization of the workshop has contributed immensely to the mutual friendship of these countries and continued collaborative research. To enhance the participation of other Asian countries, we also invited scientists and researchers from Thailand, Malaysia and India with a future prospective of organization of an Asian symposium in near future for the same scope.

It is worth mentioning that the importance of this workshop lies not only in the fact that we have covered a wide variety of research fields; from materials science, life science, fluid science etc. to space exploration, but also because we have organized a special session, International Mohri Poster Session for students and young scientists. To encourage the young participants, best three posters presented by the students and the young researchers were presented the Parabolic Flight Award. Under this award, the winners got an opportunity to conduct their own parabolic flight experiments over a period of two days.

I would also like to emphasize that the average age of the participants was much lower than that in the previous workshops. This is partly attributed to the novel idea of encouraging students and young staffs for participating in the workshop and also because of an increasing interest in the word of “SPACE”, as seen in the success of “HAYABUSA” projects. Now is the chance for us to invite more scientists to the filed of microgravity utilization. However there is one issue that we have to think about: Whether the word “Microgravity Science” is proper or not. What does this word mean? Until the time we understand the significance of this term, it would be difficult to motivate good scientists and researchers to join our society.

Six months later after the workshop, the city of Sendai came across one of the biggest natural disasters in the history of Japan when a massive earthquake and Tsunami struck the North-East area of Japan on 11 March 2011. It is extremely difficult to recount the unfortunate experience that we had during those days in Sendai city and particularly at Tohoku University. However we, at least the academic and administrative staff of the university, have been recovering from those grim situations to normalcy state as it was before and thus beginning this autumn semester, all lectures and most of the research activities in the University have resumed smoothly. We express our sincere gratitude to all our well-wishers from across the world for the kind mails and encouraging words which have provided us enough strength to re-group and to deliver again with the same spirit. Now we are ready to work again for the promotion of new “Space Utilization” with a sprit of courage as we experienced during the disaster of Sendai Earthquake and Tsunami.

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