

Welcome to Yokohama



Honorable Committee Chair, Kunio Yoshida

In 1988, the first tripartite conference with Korea, Taiwan and Japan on fluidized-bed and three-phase reactors was held in Tokyo under the name of the First Asian Conference. It has been held in series until 10th since then. On the way, we have developed it into a full Asian Conference by including many other Asian countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, People's Republic of China and so on. In Sapporo the modified meeting was restarted based on the new paradigm under the name of ASCON-IEEChE. This meeting has reached now 5th ASCON, Yokohama. It is indeed very gratifying to see many friends again.

Growing populations and affluence around the globe have put increasing pressure on natural resources, arable land, and raw materials. The concern over natural resources and environmental systems is a global awareness of sustainability. Developing new technologies within the constraints imposed by natural resources and environmental systems is the most important challenges of the 21st century. Researchers and engineers in Asian regions must play a central role in addressing that challenges. The exchange of ideas during this conference will help us all to keep pace with the rapid technological development.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the members of the national committee of the Society of Chemical Engineers, Japan. I especially owe special thanks to Professor Kameyama and Dr. Kikuchi who have, from its beginning until now, given much time and effort to organize this meeting.

This meeting was made possible through the financial supports of many organizations, companies and individuals. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of them for having shown their kindness for this meeting. We showed all the names and logos of contributors in both the program leaflet and proceedings by not leaving off the list, but in case they are missing, we will ask heartily for their pardon.

Once again, I extend to you all my heartfelt welcome. Despite the cold weather may you have a pleasant stay in Yokohama.