

Preface



It is our pleasure to publish the SPring-8/SACLA Annual Report FY2018. This year, we have decided to change the language from Japanese to English to address interest from our international colleagues. Reviewing our previous annual reports, something important seems to be missing. We are committing to improve the framework of the whole report by adding information to deepen the understanding of our various groups of readers. Following are some topics that are important, but may not appear in the main body of the report.

- At our Open House this past April, we welcomed more than 10,000 visitors. The large number of guests implies a high level of public interest in the activities of SPring-8/SACLA. A demonstration of self-driving cars was held in collaboration with Hyogo prefecture. Self-driving cars may have a practical application in transporting users around our huge site.
- The 3-Way Meeting was held in May at the Advanced Photon Source (APS) at Argonne National Laboratory in the US. This meeting series started in 1994 with the three large-scale synchrotron radiation (SR) facilities, European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), APS and SPring-8, with a mission to cooperatively address various issues of third generation SR sources. Later, DESY joined with the inauguration of PETRA-III, but the group retained the name 3-Way Meeting, redefining “three” to indicate Europe, America, and Asia. Though it was SPring-8’s turn to host next year’s meeting, we changed the order to accommodate a request from ESRF to host the meeting in Grenoble in February 2020.
- The International Conference on Synchrotron Radiation Instrumentation (SRI2018) was held in Taipei this past June. This is one of the most important conferences in SR instrumentation held triennially among the European, American, and Asia-Oceanic regions. SPring-8 was excited to send several participants to the conference. The next venue will be Hamburg in 2021. Also in June, the UK held a symposium in Liverpool to commemorate the UK’s 50-year anniversary of synchrotron radiation (UKSR50). This reminded me that we did not celebrate the 50th anniversary of Japan’s SR community, so we plan to hold a 60th anniversary symposium in the Japanese Society for Synchrotron Radiation Research (JSSRR) in 2022, marking sixty years after the first use of the Electron Synchrotron at The University of Tokyo for SR Research.
- From October 2018 to February 2019, the Japanese government conducted a mid-term assessment of

SPring-8/SACLA, raising quite a few challenges. Overall, the results were favorable and will help SPring-8/SACLA move forward. RIKEN and JASRI are addressing the questions raised in the assessment.

I apologize for this diary-like preface, but it is important for us to consider ourselves from both domestic and international perspectives. In particular, we are responsible for creating and improving operational practices for SPring-8/SACLA as advanced shared user facilities, and for continuing to evolve these facilities to meet future needs.

As always, we sincerely appreciate your help and cooperation.

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