

## The Second SPring-8 Symposium

In October 1997, individuals began to use the beamlines of SPring-8. Of course, the first users were mainly the people who were engaged on the construction of the beamline stations. The photons provided by the synchrotron at the beginning stage were consumed in order to assess the quality of photons and to adjust the parameters for the monochromators and other optical elements. After six months of operation, the first symposium was held in March 1998. It was dedicated to the introduction of the first results obtained by people who were leaders of the construction groups. The audience was clearly excited by their reports. After the first symposium, many of us had the opportunity to use the stations of SPring-8. The Second SPring-8 Symposium was then held from December 2 to 4, 1998 at the main hall of CAST, the Center for Advanced Science and Technology, near the SPring-8 site. We users were able to learn from our experiences; we noted the superiority of the so-called third generation synchrotron radiation facility over the older one and, at the same time, the delicacy of the super high brilliance X-ray photon beams.

At the 2nd symposium, the reporters were asked to talk about the present status of their stations, *i.e.*, "what can be done at the stations and what are the problems that must be solved there". Since there are so many stations already running, not all of them could report their achievements orally, but most were placed in the poster sessions. The oral sessions were devoted to the reports from newly designed beamlines.

The symposium consisted of 65 poster presentations and talks from the representative of the users' community, the director and group leaders of the SPring-8 facility, the designers of ten new beamlines, and reports from several SPring-8 official committees. 250 people attended and information concerning the present technical achievement and administrative policies of SPring-8 were given to them.

On the first day, Junji Matsui of the SPring-8 Users Association and Hiromichi Kamitsubo, Director of SPring-8, gave opening addresses. Noritaka Kumagai discussed the SPring-8 accelerator; Hitoshi Tanaka discussed the character of the electron beam in the storage ring; Osamu Shimomura gave an overview of beamlines; Toru Hara discussed insertion devices; Sunao Takahashi discussed beamline front ends; Tetsuya Ishikawa talked about the optics of beamlines; Tatzuo Ueki presented proposals for beamline

improvements. Then, ten lectures on BL29XU, BL19IS, BL44XU, BL16XU, BL16B2, BL11XU, BL24XU, BL33B2, BL23SU, and BL27SU followed. The lectures introduced new technology being developed at SPring-8. In the poster session, the users and the scientist-in-charge presented each beamline and explained the character of the beamline from the mechanical arrangement to the quality of the optics; they also explained the apparatus equipped at the stations and some of the typical scientific outputs. The most important feature of this symposium was to provide all the participants with the information on the technical problems encountered with the beamlines and possible solutions. After the first day the participants enjoyed splendid meals and beer at the cafeteria of SPring-8.

The second day of the symposium was dedicated to future projects at SPring-8. Reports were then given from the committees of Contract Beamline and Proposal Review, and a report was presented on the activity of Users' Association. In addition, the administration office presented reports on the results of beamtime allocation schedule, and a recent policy concerning the user assistance and safety management.

The three day symposium contained many programs, which naturally reflects the huge physical size of SPring-8 facility and the wide scientific fields covered. All the lectures were quite impressive. Researchers taught us future possibilities and new dreams on the new generation synchrotron facility. The advantage of this symposium was that all the information on SPring-8 was prepared. The disadvantage was that the symposium contained too many subjects to cover in three days (as a matter of fact, the scientific program only allowed two half-days). The next symposium should be well-organized with an emphasis on certain topics and might need more days. It should be noted that even though the great help from the scientists of SPring-8 lead to the symposium's success, the researchers had difficulty attending due to their obligations since the symposium was held while the synchrotron was being operation.

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