

# Preface

This issue of SPring-8 Research Frontiers contains highlights of the research results and the facility improvement at SPring-8 in its 5-th year, a period from September 2001 to August 2002. In this period, the number of publications increased steeply. SPring-8 has entered upon a phase to reap a rich harvest at many beamlines after long preparation for experiments. A government committee, which reviewed SPring-8 from the autumn of 2001 to the summer of 2002, pointed out that SPring-8 has shifted from a construction period to real utilization period.

The review committee also advised that SPring-8 should be operated in a more strategic way than it had been. In response to it, the priority policies will be applied to the beam-time allocation from the latter half of 2003. Virtually, SPring-8 has given a priority to projects, the Protein 3000 and the Nanotechnology Support, which were implemented on the basis of the government's science and technology policies.

Efforts were made to encourage the industrial applications which had not so progressed as had been expected. In November 2001, a public beamline dedicated to industrial applications in materials science started operation. It was mainly on this beamline that experiments under a Trial-Use program were conducted for industrial users who were not familiar with synchrotron radiation. Some of the results obtained in this program are included in this issue. In March 2002, a consortium of pharmaceutical companies opened a contract beamline dedicated to protein structure analysis.

I would be happy if some of the articles in this issue would stimulate readers' mind or trigger readers' new actions.



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