

Editor's Note

Since the inauguration of SPring-8 in October 1997, five issues of SPring-8 Research Frontiers have already been published. During this period, many beamlines were constructed one after another and experiments using synchrotron radiation were made available for wider scientific fields step by step. As a result, outstanding scientific achievements have increased gradually but steadily.

The editorial board made some editing changes this time. First, the cover was changed to depict an image of dynamic development of synchrotron radiation science. Secondly, this sixth issue is simply entitled "2003," although it covers advances made during the two consecutive research terms, the second half of 2002 (2002B) and the first half of 2003 (2003A), as in the previous issues. Thirdly, each report is limited to two pages, and 58 reports are carried in this issue; the number of reports increased by about 40% from the previous issue. And finally, we made efforts to enrich the facility status section with more useful information.

We invited eight specialists from the Proposal Review Committee to serve as the Editing Coordinators for their respective research fields:

Life Science - *Prof. Keiichi Fukuyama* (Osaka University)
Materials Science: Structure - *Prof. Makoto Sakata* (Nagoya University)
Materials Science: Electronics & Magnetism - *Assoc. Prof. Toyohiko Kinoshita* (The University of Tokyo)
Chemical Science - *Assoc. Prof. Tsunehiro Tanaka* (Kyoto University)
Earth & Planetary Science - *Prof. Tetsuo Irifune* (Ehime University)
Environmental Science - *Dr. Momoko Takemura* (Toshiba Co., Ltd.)
Industrial Application - *Prof. Tokuhiro Okamoto* (Ritsumeikan University)
Instrumentation & Methodology - *Prof. Masaharu Nomura* (KEK)

We would like to express our most sincere appreciation to Editing Coordinators for their efforts in preparing the introductory overview and providing comments on each research field. We would also like to express our gratitude to users and staff members of SPring-8 for contributing their reports to SPring-8 Research Frontiers.

SPring-8 Research Frontiers will be sent on request. Its full text is also available on the SPring-8 Website: <http://www.spring8.or.jp/>

Editorial Board

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