

## Editor's Note

SPring-8 Research Frontiers describes the remarkable scientific achievements being made at SPring-8 as well as developments in the accelerator and beamlines and the status of the facility. This eighth issue "2005" covers advances made during two consecutive research terms, the second half of 2004 and the first half of 2005.

The quality of scientific activities at SPring-8 is being enhanced owing to the introduction of the top-up operation, the upgrading of the experimental apparatuses and others. This is reflected in this issue as an increase in volume. It is also to be noted that the section of Industrial Applications has become prosperous since the number of relevant experiments exceeds 20% of the entire use.

The section "Project XFEL" is newly created, because R&D for the XFEL (X-ray Free Electron Laser) project started in 2006 at RIKEN and the XFEL is planned to be completed in 2010 at the SPring-8 campus.

Finally note that the principal publication(s) concerning each article is indicated with all authors' names in italics in the list of references.

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

Life Science: Structural Biology - *Prof. Keiichi Fukuyama* (Osaka University)  
 Life Science: Medical Biology - *Prof. Fumihiko Kajiyama* (Kawasaki Medical School / Okayama University)  
 Materials Science: Structure - *Prof. Satoshi Sasaki* (Tokyo Institute of Technology)  
 Materials Science: Electronics & Magnetic Properties - *Prof. Takashi Takahashi* (Tohoku University)  
 Chemical Science - *Prof. Kiyotaka Asakura* (Hokkaido University)  
 Earth & Planetary Science - *Prof. Takehiko Yagi* (The University of Tokyo)  
 Environmental Science - *Dr. Masayuki Kunugi* (National Institute for Environmental Studies)  
 Industrial Applications - *Prof. Junji Matsui* (Center for Advanced Science and Technology)  
 Instrumentation & Methodology - *Prof. Yasushi Kagoshima* (University of Hyogo)

We would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the 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 the 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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