

### Editor's Note

SPring-8 Research Frontiers 2006 is the ninth issue, covering advances made during two consecutive research terms, the second half of 2005 and the first half of 2006. SPring-8 Research Frontiers describes the remarkable scientific achievements made at SPring-8 in various fields of basic and applied sciences including industrial applications, as well as the developments in the accelerators, beamlines and experimental apparatuses and the present status of the facility. A section on the X-ray free electron laser project, which was started in 2006 at RIKEN, is also included.

Since the publication of the first issue, we have invited specialists from the Proposal Review Committee to serve as the editing coordinators for their respective research fields. However, we have decided to withdraw this editorial procedure to remove this burden. From this issue, the editorial board members give introductory overviews and comment on their respective research fields.

A new article concerning scientific news at SPring-8 is featured, which focuses on the main topics of scientific achievement, strategies for developing the facilities to enhance scientific activities and the future prospects of synchrotron radiation science. This article, titled *A Place in the "X-ray" Sun*, follows the preface written by the director general.

Copies of 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/> ). For the list of publications by the SPring-8 users and staff members, please visit the publications database at <https://user.spring8.or.jp/en/pubsch>.

We give our appreciation to the many specialists who recommended excellent research results suitable for publication in SPring-8 Research Frontiers. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the users and staff members of SPring-8 for contributing their reports to this issue.

### Editorial Board

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