



Editorial

The International Conference on Electroceramics, ICE-2003, was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge Massachusetts during 3-7 August 2003. We were pleased to host the first in the series of ICE meetings given that MIT served as a key historic site in the development of modern electroceramics. Prof. Arthur von Hippel, founder of the Laboratory for Insulation Research, laid the foundation for modern dielectrics and ferroelectrics in the 1940's through the 1970's and is noted for his interdisciplinary approach to materials design for which he coined the term "Molecular Engineering". A special tribute celebrating Prof. von Hippel's long career and life was delivered by Prof. Marcus Zahn of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. We are sorry to report that Prof. von Hippel passed away this December 31st at 105 years of age.

The conference was attended by approximately 275 participants, representing 31 countries, who presented approximately 350 papers. We were fortunate, at this meeting, to have had excellent representation from the leading industrial, government and academic laboratories. Many participants expressed their appreciation of the quality and breadth of the plenary, invited and contributed presentations. This proceedings, which includes 137 papers, represents an excellent, albeit incomplete, record of the conference.

We are pleased to announce that the dates and location of the next International Conference on Electroceramics, ICE-2005, have been fixed. ICE-2005 will be held on the campus of KIST in Seoul, Korea, June 12–16, 2005. Please check the web site <http://ice-2005.kist.re.kr> for further details.

I would like to acknowledge a number of individuals who, without their dedication and skills, this conference could not have succeeded nearly as well. One person deserving a lion's share of the credit, is Elisabeth Anderson, the coordinator of the conference whose efforts and dedication insured that all aspects of the meeting were up to the highest standards. Other key contributors include Dr. Ytshak Avrahami, who created and maintained the conference Web site, designed the conference logo and assembled the audio visual equipment, Dr. Il Doo Kim, who played a key role in assembling the program and the other members of my research group (Dr. Anja Bieberle, Mr. Josh Hertz, Ms. Sally Honda, Mr. Scott Litzelman, Mr. Yong Ki Min, Dr. Avner Rothshild, Mr. Huankiat Seh, Mr. Dilan Seneviratne, and Mr. Todd Stefanik) who assisted with many aspects of programming, registration, audio visual support and organization.

I would also like to acknowledge the Society of Nontraditional Technology of Japan, the MIT Entrepreneurship Center and the MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering for their kind support.

Finally, in the name of the ICE 2003 Proceedings Committee who included Ytshak Avrahami, Anja Bieberle, Josh Hertz, Il Doo Kim Scott Litzelman, Yong Ki Min, Avner Rothshild, Huankiat Seh, Dilan Seneviratne, and Todd Stefanik, we hope you find this proceedings helpful and stimulating to your ongoing research efforts.

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