

Editorial

First Asian Thermal Spray Conference (ATSC) 2005 Its Origin and Future

The first Asian Thermal Spray Conference, ATSC-2005 was held at the Nagoya International Congress Center, Japan, on Nov 28 and 29, 2005. It was my great pleasure and honor to have acted as the chairperson of the conference, together with a team of local executive committee members. Over the course of the two-day conference, more than 60 oral presentations including about 30 from overseas were delivered in two parallel sessions following two plenary lectures. In addition, 20 exhibitors displayed their latest technology and products. The details of the conference are reported elsewhere in this journal.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain how ATSC was conceived and how we are trying to develop it for the future of the Asian thermal spray community. The idea of having an Asian Thermal Spray Conference nucleated when ITSC 2004 was held in Osaka. We had a discussion with representatives from China, Korea, and Singapore and shared a view that we should work together to organize an international thermal spray meeting in Asia. We have witnessed the dramatic evolution of ITSC since 2000; ASM International and DVS have been organizing ITSC in North America, Europe, and the Pacific Rim region in a highly professional manner. For us in Asia, ITSC has been and will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest scientific and technological development in the world, network with world experts, and present our R&D results and products. However, we realized we have no organization representing Asia as the counterpart to the two professional organizations jointly running the ITSC series. If we can collect views and ideas from Asian thermal sprayers more effectively, we believe that we will be able to contribute with greater efficacy and cogency to the ITSC series. Therefore, we agreed to hold ATSC in Asia in the years when ITSC is not held in Asia. This means two times in every three years; the next ATSC will be in Korea in 2006, in Singapore in 2008, and in China in 2009. In 2007, all the member countries of ATSC will wholeheartedly support ITSC in China.



ATSC committee members at Nagoya International Congress Center on Nov 28, 2005. Back row from left: Mr. Y. Tateishi, Shinco Metalicon Co., Ltd., Japan; Dr. T. Kuwashima, Iwate Industrial Research Institute, Japan; Prof. C.H. Lee, Hanyang University, Korea; Prof. R. Kawase, Ariake National College of Technology, Japan; Prof. K.H. Baik, Chungnam University, Korea; Prof. S. Oki, KIN-KI University, Japan; Dr. S. Kuroda, National Institute for Materials Science, Japan; Dr. S. Uematsu, National Maritime Research Institute, Japan; Dr. M. Liu, Guangzhou Research Institute of Non-ferrous Metals, China. Front row from left: Dr. S.Y. Hwang, Research Institute of Industrial Science and Technology, Korea; Prof. C.J. Li, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China; Prof. M.K. Khor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Prof. M. Fukumoto, Toyohashi University of Technology, Japan; Prof. Y.G. Yu, Beijing General Research Institute of Mining & Metallurgy, China. Dr. Fukumoto is second from right in the front row.

For ATSC-2005, several volunteers in Japan gathered in Nagoya in the fall of 2004 and discussed the basic concept and organization. As a result, a virtual organization called ATSC-J was set up, and the existing domestic societies, that is, the Japan Thermal Spraying Society and the High Temperature Society's Thermal Spray Division, were given a role as supporting bodies of ATSC-J. I expect our counterparts in the three aforementioned countries might adopt a similar approach when hosting the ATSC in their countries.

This was the first time that the thermal spray community in Asia had gathered at one place through their own initiative. Special features of the conference were that it was organized and administered by a relatively younger generation of leaders in the thermal spray field and that it was intended to provide opportunities for young researchers, engineers, and industrialists to acquire international experience, meet experts, and exchange views and ideas at an affordable conference registration fee.

As the Asian thermal spray markets and industries develop, the role of ATSC as described so far might change considerably. For the time being, however, I sincerely hope that our concept and efforts are well understood and supported by the international thermal spray community.

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