

Preface

Future PSA beyond First Five Conferences

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is my great pleasure to write the preface for the proceedings of the PSA-10 (The Fifth International Symposium on Practical Surface Analysis), which was held in conjunction with the Seventh Korea-Japan International Symposium on Surface Analysis in Gyeongju, Korea, in October, 2010. With more than 200 and 192 presentations (including 116 poster presentations), conditions were ripe for fruitful discussions and sharing fresh ideas for research and daily analysis projects.

Since 1998 the PSA conferences have been successively held in Matsue (Japan), Nara (Japan, 2001), Jeju (Korea, 2004), and Kanazawa (Japan, 2007). We have discussed with great interest many aspects of surface analysis - theory, simulation, instrumentation, data analysis, applications, and also standardization - with participants from academia, industry, and instrument manufacturers. This categorization of technical topics has continued since the first PSA conference. The target materials of interest have been changing from metals and semiconductors to biological and functional organic ones in quick succession. In this Gyeongju conference several participants pointed out the importance of “nano particles” with the great potential, in my opinion, to impact our health, life, and environment. This certainly reflects the trend in our work; it is now important not only to analyze the traditional spectrum/profile but also to consider the simulated spectrum from morphology such as nano particles. These two, that of new material and simulation technology, will merge and open the door of innovative analysis in near future.

Even as we focus on studies of new materials and new analytical technologies, we shall not lose sight of the basic points of reliable analytical technology; we shall continue to strive for “accuracy”, “repeatability”, and “reproducibility”. I trust PSA conferences will help us keep a good balance between these two subject matters.

Another mission of PSA is to build and expand our human relationship in surface analysis communities. This is realized by mutual conversations in conferences as well as interactive discussions with reviewers for regular issues submitted to *Journal of Surface Analysis*. You are invited to submit articles on the progress of your research work to this journal.

This issue of *Journal of Surface Analysis*, edited by the editorial committee (led by Yoshimi Abe), collects the proceedings of PSA-10 after peer review process. These articles promise to be most helpful for our scientific and daily analysis works.

We will all have the pleasure to meet again at the next PSA conference that will be held in 2013 in Okinawa, Japan. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Mineharu Suzuki
Chairman, PSA-10