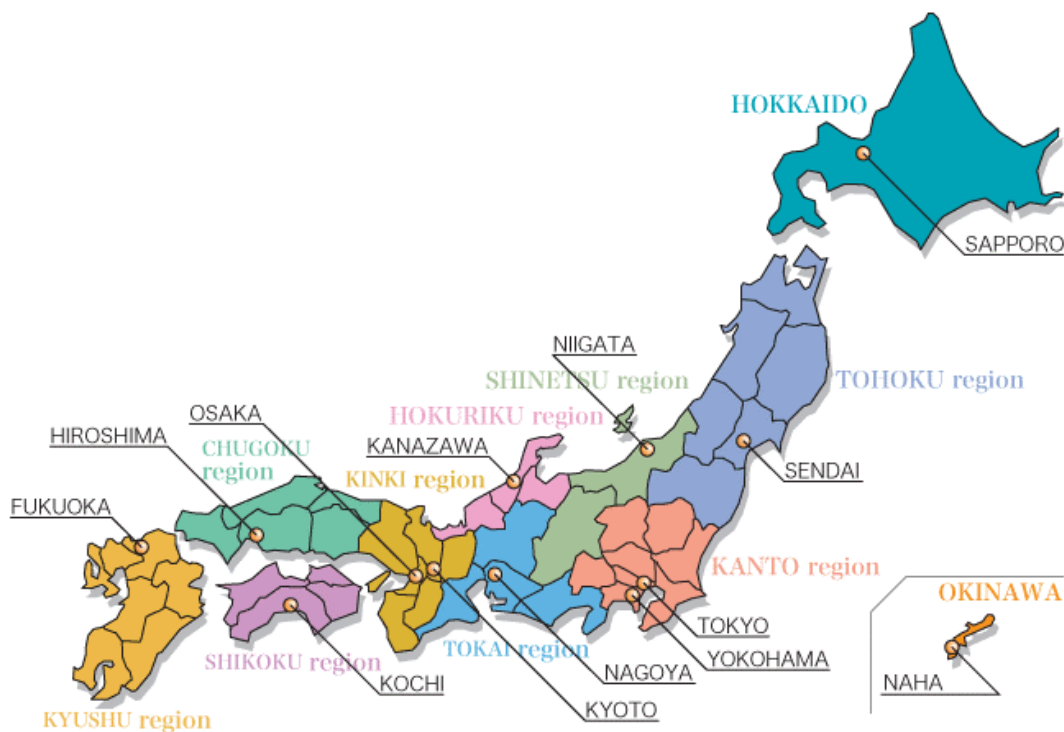


Conference Report

First International Symposium on Aqua Science, Water Resource, and Innovation Development of Countryside.

November 26-30, 2007, Sakawa, Kochi Prefecture, Japan

This conference was organized by Sakawa Town Municipality Government in Kochi Prefecture, Japan and the Research Institute on Aqua Science and Technology. It was supported by the Iron & Steel Institute of Japan, the International Solvothermal & Hydrothermal Association, and Shikoku Electric Power Company in Kochi & Nakamura Branch. It was held at Sakuraza Building in Sakawa. The town of Sakawa is located 28 km west from Kochi Railway Station.



Map of Japan showing Kochi Prefecture on Shikoku Island

Conference Chairman was Professor Emeritus Nakamichi Yamasaki formerly of Kochi University and presently associated with Osaka University. He was assisted by

- Dr. Shoji Kubota, Director of Committee on Water Design in Tokyo
- Dr. Tomoo Suzuki, Emeritus Professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology
- Dr. Yuki Yamasaki, Professor at Hosei University in Tokyo

The conference scope was focussed on the basic science related to aqueous, vapor, and supercritical state of water. Topics such as structure, characteristics, thermodynamics, fluid dynamics, and phase equilibria in aqueous systems. For example, solubility of polar

and non-polar materials, interaction of water and mineral formation in nature, sedimentary process of limestone in Sakawa, biomass resource using aqueous and water technology, material formation using hydrothermal process as reaction media, paper industry and water, lime industry and water, recycling and waste treatment, energy and CO₂, CH₄ Problems, economy and ecology for establishment of sustainable society, innovation development in countryside using water and solar energy, treatment of asbestos, sludge, and slags, treatment waste containing toxic and hazardous materials such as radioactive waste, heavy metals, and chlorinated organic compounds.

The conference therefore, covered a wide range of topics related to water, air, and soil. The organizers believed that Earth's future is facing a turning point due to the drastic ecological changes brought by human civilization. They planned to hold this symposium in this little town of Sakawa in Kochi Prefecture whose population is only 15 000 [see Figure]. It is quite rare to have an international conference in a small municipality like this, but this symposium has been planned not only for scientists but also for public officials of local governments so that they can play an important role in helping put our world on a path towards environmental and ecological sustainability. Sakawa therefore was considered to be an ideal place to host this symposium, discuss water science, and send a message to the rest of the world.



Main street in Sakawa

Working sessions started at 8:30 in the morning and terminated at about 7:30 in the evening with lunches and coffee breaks on the spot. Beside the regular sessions there was

a Poster Session. A welcoming luncheon, a memorable banquet with folk dancing, and an emotional closing ceremony. Participants got a book of the program and Extended Abstracts as well as 450-page Proceedings Volume, very well edited, handsomely produced, and fully indexed. There was also a trip to a local limestone quarry and a local chemical plant producing nano particle size calcium carbonate for the chemical industry. Participants were about 120 mainly from Japan but also from China, Canada, USA, United Kingdom, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Taiwan, Korea, Finland, Singapore, Colombia, and Uganda.

The conference was a great success thanks to the devoted employees Naoma Hasikake, Sachi Myojin, and many others who helped the Organizing Committee. They took care of every detail that made the conference a memorable one. One also cannot forget the warm welcome and the great sense of humour of Mayor Eramoya and his Deputy Katsuhito Nishimori. Next conference is planned in 2009 at Tongji University in Shanghai, China.

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