

Kyoto International Conference Center

ICC Kyoto

NEWS LETTER
2014

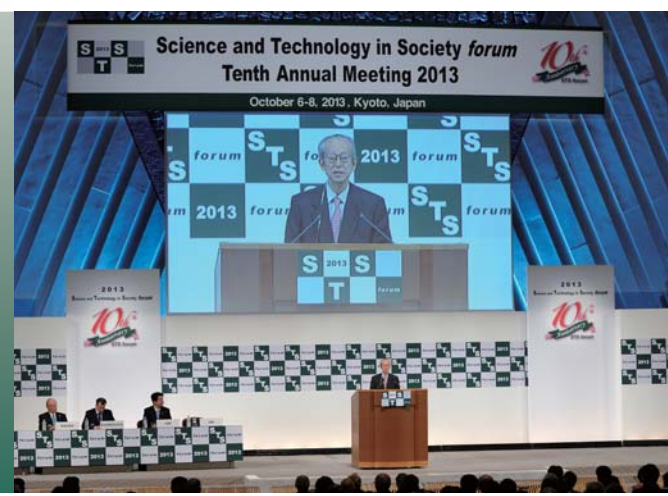


Strengthening the Lights and Controlling the Shadows of Science and Technology

—10 Years with ICC Kyoto

Profile of Mr. Koji Omi Founder and Chairman, STS forum

Graduated from Hitotsubashi University in 1956 and joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Elected to the House of Representatives from Gunma district No. 1 in 1983 with the largest number of votes won by a new independent candidate. Served as Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy and for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs in the first Koizumi Cabinet in 2001. Served as Minister of Finance in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's first Cabinet in 2006. Founded Science and Technology in Society forum (STS forum), a non-profit organization, to discuss the "lights and shadows" of science and technology, in 2004.



Science and Technology in Society forum (STS forum)*1, which meets annually in the fall at the Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto), celebrated its 10th anniversary in October 2013. We interviewed forum Founder and Chairman Mr. Koji Omi and asked for his thoughts on the past 10 years and his outlook for future developments regarding the forum.

discussions by inviting only top-notch members, including ministers of science and technology and Nobel laureates. One could call it a "Davos Forum"2 of science and technology. I hope the forum can help Japan contribute to the world not only through national strengths such as our economy but also through research in science and technology as well as diplomacy. I believe that holding STS forum in Japan can be a major way for Japan to contribute to the world via science and technology.

facilities, I hope that Kyoto will develop a better infrastructure for international conferences, including more accommodations in the area. STS forum participants really look forward to the special dinner every year which is always held in famous spots like Kiyomizu temple, Chion-in, and Heian Shrine. Our special dinner in 2013 took place at Daikakuji, which also hosted the STS forum's first special dinner in 2004. I vividly recall how participants enjoyed viewing Japan's traditional arts, performed aboard a platform floating on Osawa Pond. With such splendid cultural assets, cutting-edge science and technology research institutes, and the companies that use the technologies developed here, Kyoto is a truly exceptional city. I hope that ICC Kyoto, like STS forum, will benefit from tie-ups with political, business, and educational circles and continue to develop into one of the finest international convention centers in the world.

From 50 to About 100 Countries and Regions in 10 Years

President Hiroo Kinoshita, ICC Kyoto: I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, Mr. Omi, on the success of the 10th annual gathering of STS forum. ICC Kyoto has been the STS forum venue for 10 years, and as head of this facility I am very pleased that the forum has once again been a success. Although there may have been difficult times, how did you feel about the forum's 10th anniversary?

Mr. Koji Omi: I'm truly grateful for the help of the numerous people which made it possible for us to celebrate this event. STS forum began 10 years ago with approximately 480 participants from 50 countries. Today, it has developed into a gathering of almost 1,100 opinion leaders from approximately 100 countries and regions worldwide.

After the first meeting I spoke to Council members and we decided that it would be meaningful to hold the forum every year. I am deeply moved by the fact that the forum has, thanks to the assistance of various contributors, been able to continue for the past 10 years.

Kinoshita: It is a great honor for ICC Kyoto to have been the venue for this important forum for 10 years. Human networking, facility

improvements, and a solid academic research environment are all important factors in attracting meetings. Why did you select Kyoto as the venue for the forum?

Omi: First and foremost, Kyoto is famous around the globe, and as the ancient capital of Japan, the city possesses an abundance of historical assets. Kyoto is a much-loved and highly popular city that people from around the world wish to visit, and I felt that Kyoto's environment and atmosphere would be effective in attracting participants from various countries to attend the forum.

Another reason for choosing Kyoto is that it's an innovative city with a concentration of cutting-edge science and technology used in modern industries. Kyoto not only preserves tradition but is also dedicated to pursuing advanced research and development. I thought that Kyoto, with many leading companies in the science and technology field, would be the ideal location for STS forum, serving as a place where people with many different viewpoints could exchange opinions.

The "Lights and Shadows of Science and Technology" as the Starting Point for the Forum

Kinoshita: While science and technology

continue to progress rapidly, you strongly believe that it's important to think of the environment, ethics, safety and other considerations that arise due to the application of new developments in science and technology.

Omi: I served as Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy and for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs during the first Koizumi Cabinet. My exposure to science and technology led me to feel that while it helped make people's lives easier, the "shadows" or negative effects, for example environmental problems, ethical issues such as human cloning, and protecting privacy in ICT, were also increasing. I thought that even as we work to expand the "lights" of science and technology to enhance the quality of people's lives, we must not forget to keep the "shadows" under control.

Kinoshita: STS forum has undertaken many activities as a venue for discussing how to overcome those "shadows".

Omi: Indeed, it has. In tackling the problems, it's not enough to leave it all to science professionals. I believed it was necessary to create an opportunity to examine the issues from all angles, including political and economic viewpoints. After discussions with leaders in many fields, I started the first STS forum in the

fall of 2004. I had never organized an international gathering before, but our organization was able to convene the forum successfully thanks to help from many quarters.

Kinoshita: As President of ICC Kyoto, I believe that in order to properly cover a subject in depth, it is important to offer a place where many different people, including experts in various fields, journalists, and politicians, can gather for discussions. My belief was reaffirmed when I observed the 10th meeting of STS forum. There was much active discussion of issues from many different perspectives.

Omi: Discussions at the 10th meeting included the topics of "energy and the environment", "ICT (information and communication technology)", "population and resource problems", "the role of universities in the 21st century", and "global health".

STS forum invites leaders in many different fields, which contributes to active and meaningful discussions. Proceedings are in English, as is the norm for international meetings around the world. The language issue sometimes makes this difficult for me, but we follow the global standard.

We could invite more participants to join the forum, but we aim to have higher-quality

Moving to a New Stage, with Kyoto Companies

Kinoshita: Now that the forum has reached the significant milestone of 10 years, what do you have in mind as a new approach for the forum's future?

Omi: Kyoto has a wealth of innovative companies working in science and technology. The forum could improve its ability to communicate by involving such businesses, in order to connect from Kyoto to global-scale activities.

Since its inception, STS forum has developed with awareness of the need to contribute to improving living standards and stimulating economic development. I believe that the forum should focus on themes relating to pertinent issues of the times, for example iPS cells and other timely subjects that could have a great impact on people's lives and on society in the future.

Kinoshita: We at ICC Kyoto will do everything we can to support the STS forum's activities.

The forum is planning to convene at ICC Kyoto once again in 2014. What are your expectations of ICC Kyoto, which will soon mark its 50th anniversary, and what do you hope for with regard to the city of Kyoto?

Omi: In addition to improved convention

*1 STS forum is held annually at ICC Kyoto, where opinion leaders including not only science and technology researchers but also political figures, business leaders, and journalists from all over the world gather to discuss the issues of science and technology in society as matters of relevance to all humankind.

*2 Officially known as the World Economic Forum, established in 1971. Top leaders, including executives of multinational enterprises and international political figures, participate in the annual meeting held in Davos, Switzerland.



(Left) Interviewer Hiroo Kinoshita: After serving as Vice Minister for the National Land Agency and President of Hanshin Expressway Co., Ltd., he became President of ICC Kyoto in 2012.

Japan's first international conference facility, with a traditional garden ideally suited to experiencing the beauty of Japan's four seasons.



The garden can be used for receptions.

Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto) is located only 20 minutes from the center of the modern metropolis that is Kyoto City, and surrounding this world-class conference facility is an extensive and beautiful Japanese-style garden. The garden functions not only as a pleasant location for meeting participants to walk around during a break but also as a site for various outside functions including welcome/farewell parties and banquets as well as other garden parties. With a capacity of 3,000 people for a garden party, it is one of the largest outdoor venues in Kyoto. The garden is located just in front of the meeting facility, and when used in conjunction with an indoor banquet hall and the foyer (lobby), a large space with a total capacity of 5,000 can be offered. In the event of rain, the permanent banquet halls and indoor lobby (foyer) can substitute for the outside venue, so one needn't worry about the weather.

Various attractions can be arranged in the extensive Japanese garden.

A notable feature of ICC Kyoto's garden is the stage located in the center of Lake Sachigaike, where various traditional arts are performed against the backdrop of the natural beauty of Lake Takaragaike. Traditional arts performed on the stage include graceful Kyomai (Kyoto style dance), traditional Kyogen and Noh theatre, dynamic Japanese Drum performances and delicately played koto and shamisen (Japanese string instruments), and the fusion of natural beauty and culture never fails to make for a truly memorable experience.



Private fireworks launched from Lake Takaragaike adjacent to ICC Kyoto are one of many memorable attractions available for meeting participants that can only be experienced at ICC Kyoto. We can tailor highly original fireworks according to budget and special requests, such as large fireworks lighting up the summer night sky, set pieces with sparks pouring down like Niagara Falls, as well as ones that reproduce the name and logo of the conference and a special message in the fireworks.



Images are produced using major-scale projection mapping (3D mapping) and laser beams on the uniquely shaped buildings of ICC Kyoto, which consist of a combination of trapezoids and triangles. This collaboration of modern architecture, contemporary imaging techniques and depiction of space via effective use of sound and light will surely become an unforgettable memory for participants of any conference held here.

There are countless ways to utilize the garden, including an arrangement featuring the bon dance festival, a traditional summer festival all over Japan, fashion shows using the unique corridors of the garden as catwalks, and Takigi Noh, a traditional Noh play on the stage in the lake lighted with bonfires are just a few of them.



All of these aspects of the Japanese garden come together to make it a rich place for exchange and the ideal environment for memorable conventions. The garden provides a place for informal communication, which is an important factor for conventions, as well as for relaxation in off-time, and it is one of the major features of ICC Kyoto that leads conventions to great success. It may be that the best reason for holding an international conference in Kyoto is to experience the quintessence of Japanese culture.



Myanmar Government delegates visit ICC Kyoto

Looking ahead to chairpersonship of ASEAN in 2014



Center left: President of ICC Kyoto
Right: Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar

On March 14th, 2013, government delegates of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and including Ambassador to Japan visited ICC Kyoto. In visiting the first government-built international conference facility in Japan, the delegates from Myanmar that chair ASEAN in 2014 were able to enhance their understanding and acquire knowledge concerning the logistics of international meetings.

During their visit the delegates experienced an Urasenke-style tea ceremony in Hoshō-an (a tea ceremony house), received an explanation of ICC Kyoto and saw the Main Hall and Annex Hall.

ICC Kyoto sincerely hopes that their wealth of know-how and experience with international conferences will prove useful to Myanmar for meetings to be held in 2014.

Forum held by school students from Istanbul, Turkey

On December 7th, 2013, junior and high school students from Doga School in Istanbul, Turkey held a forum titled "The Multidimensional Results of the Global Warming", in which they presented their study of global warming in their class at the site of the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, ICC Kyoto. Because Istanbul and Kyoto signed a partner city agreement in June 2013, Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto, took part in the forum. In the forum students also listened with great interest to a lecture by Professor Tsugihiko Watanabe of the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies of Kyoto University about the influence of climate change in Turkey.

After the forum, the students experienced Japanese culture by participating in a tea ceremony at Hoshō-an, the tea ceremony house of ICC Kyoto. They showed much interest in Japanese confectionery and powdered tea, which they experienced then for the first time. The students also visited Kyoto University on December 6th, because many of them are interested in studying abroad there.



Event Calendar in 2014

As of January 31, 2014

Date	Event	Participants
Jan. 17 - 19	The 37th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons	4,000
Feb. 22 - 23	The Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto / The Earth Forum Kyoto	1,000
Mar. 23 - 26	17th Biennial Meeting of Society for Free Radical Research International (SFRRRI2014)	700
Mar. 27	KYOTO Smart City Expo 2014	1,000
Apr. 3 - 5	The 114th Annual Congress of Japan Surgical Society	12,000
Apr. 13 - 16	18th WCBIP/WCBE World Congress	2,000
May. 11 - 14	39th World Congress of International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology	600
May. 19 - 23	Advanced Automotive Battery Conference Asia 2014 (AABC Asia 2014)	500
May. 24 - 28	35th International Association for Human Caring Conference	1,000
May. 30 - Jun. 1	The 113th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Dermatological Association	4,300
Jun. 5 - 8	The 50th Annual Meeting of Liver Cancer Study Group of Japan 4th International Kyoto Liver Cancer Symposium	2,500
Aug. 10 - 15	The 15th International Heat Transfer Conference	1,200
Sep. 12 - 14	9th Metabolic Syndrome, Type 2 Diabetes and Atherosclerosis Congress	1,000
Oct. 5 - 7	11th Annual Meeting of Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum	1,100
Oct. 15 - 18	The 87th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Biochemical Society	4,000
Nov. 1 - 4	Inner Ear Biology Workshop 2014 in Kyoto	500
Nov. 14 - 16	The 55th Annual Meeting of the Japan Lung Cancer Society	4,000
Nov. 18 - 27	WCPEC-6 / PVSEC-24 / 41st IEEE PVSC / 30th EU PVSEC	1,000
Dec. 1 - 4	AAPOS-JAPO-JASA Joint Meeting in Kyoto	1,000
Dec. 10 - 12	2014 Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Immunology	3,000

(Events with more than 500 estimated participants)

ICC Kyoto is being enhanced for its approaching 50th anniversary year in 2016.



RoomA

The center is currently being reinforced for improved resistance to earthquakes and other disasters. External walls will be renewed into a new beautiful form, and improvements made to the facilities will produce a truly cutting-edge conference environment.

Meeting rooms A, B-1, and B-2 were reinforced for earthquakes in 2013. The interior decoration of these rooms was also renewed at this time, giving them a modern and beautiful style.

The size of Room A's permanent screen greatly increased (from 4.6m*6m to 5m*8.8m). The newest type of lighting and air conditioning facilities were installed, further enhancing the comfort level of the room.



Main Hall (architectural rendering)

The Main Hall will be renewed in 2014. The number of lighting batons will be increased in order to make possible various lighting effects. The space will be used to the fullest to create spectacular productions. The size of permanent screen will be increased and wireless LAN will be permanently installed for the purpose of creating better meeting environment than ever before.

ICC Kyoto will continue to do business during the period of construction. Please feel free to inquire about the usage of meeting spaces.

▶ ICC Kyoto on video

Please watch the video and discover the new allure of ICC Kyoto that cannot be appreciated fully through pictures alone. Please activate the bar code reader of your smartphone or cellphone and read the QR code on the right.

*Some terminals cannot be used.

