



I am confident that you will find this issue of *Transactions of Fusion Technology (Trans. FT)* to be extremely exciting. It contains the proceedings from the Sixth International Toki Conference on Plasma Physics and Controlled Nuclear Fusion, sponsored by the National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS) in Toki-city and Nagoya, Japan. The theme for these meetings has varied from one year to the next, and this conference was devoted to "Research for Advanced Concepts in Magnetic Fusion."

We are indebted to Dr. A. Iiyoshi, Director of NIFS and Chair of the Organizing Committee; Dr. M. Fujiwara, Chair of the Conference Committee; Dr. T. Hayashi, Publications Chair; and Dr. H. Momota, Conference Committee American Nuclear Society Liaison, for their enthusiastic help in putting together this special issue. We are also indebted to the NIFS staff and the Program Committee Members, who spent considerable time and effort in refereeing the manuscripts, which were received and reviewed at the conference. Likewise, the authors are to be congratulated for making prompt corrections following review and getting their papers back to the publisher in a very limited time.

The general theme of the meeting was new advances in technology and in reactor concepts that will make future fusion reactors more competitive. This is consistent with a worldwide recognition within the fusion community that while the physics of the "conventional" tokamak has made great strides, it is now necessary to find improvements or alternate approaches that can ultimately enhance the economic and environmental competitiveness of a fusion reactor.

Indeed, I was one of the attendees and presenters at this conference. I found the general tenor of discussions, as well as the paper presentations, to be quite comparable to meetings on this topic that I have attended in the United States, for example, the recent "Evaluation of Current Trends in Fusion Research" (Washington, D.C., November 14-18, 1994). What I perhaps had not fully anticipated, and which turned out to be quite a pleasant surprise, was the rich diversity and innovation revealed by the presentations at this meeting. I, along with others, have been concerned that the funding constraints for fusion research internationally would thwart research on advanced concepts. Perhaps it has, but those who have maintained an involvement in this search have compensated for funding limitations with increased creativity and enthusiasm. After you have looked through these papers, I am sure you will agree that some very intriguing research is presented that could well lead to the desired improved competitiveness for future fusion power.

Aside from technical presentations, the meeting had many other pleasant highlights for the attendees. Among these were a tour of the new NIFS

site at Toki-city. This laboratory houses the Large Helical Device experiment, which is now nearing completion and is certainly a most impressive facility. Components and planned operational characteristics are described in various papers in this issue, but I do not believe it is possible to fully comprehend the technology involved without seeing it in person. I would recommend a visit to the facility to anyone who has the opportunity to stop by Toki-city. On the social/tourist level, the meeting was also a huge success. Certainly the magnificent ancient culture of Japan, interspersed with the stark, modern architecture, was enjoyed by all participants. Many attendees took advantage of the famous ceramics manufacturing and handicrafts tradition of Toki. The attendees also enjoyed a special music concert and wonderful food at the conference reception and banquet.

In closing, as one of the meeting attendees, I would like to thank the entire NIFS staff for a most enjoyable conference and stay in Japan. Again, their help in putting together this *Trans. FT* for the meeting is greatly appreciated and should be of lasting value to the fusion community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Miley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'G' and 'M'.