

Preface

The Forum on the Science and Technology of Silicon Materials, founded by Professor Emeritus Koji Sumino (Tohoku University) in 1997, is now playing an important role in the field of the silicon materials science and technology, as one of a few international conferences that the Japanese researchers and engineers organize voluntarily. Following the first two Forums held in 1997 and 1999 at the Kazusa Academia Park in Chiba Prefecture, we held the third and fourth Forums in 2001 and 2003 in Shonan Village Center at Hayama-cho in Yokosuka, a very nice seaside resort. The numbers of the participants were nearly 50 to 100, depending on the business environment of the semiconductor industries. The 5th Forum scheduled for 2005 was given up because of the non-disclosure policy in the silicon wafer industry and the slowing down of research activity in the LSI manufacturing industry.

The fundamental policy of the Forum has been: (1) the promotion of the mutual cooperation between the people in the industry and the academia, (2) the education and stimulation of young scientists and engineers, and (3) the emphasis on face-to-face discussion on any thing which the participants are interested in. The series of the Forums has continued for 10 years on the basis of the voluntary endeavor of Japanese scientists and engineers who deeply consider the survival of the semiconductor industries and researches in Japan.

The 22 people have got together as the members of the Organizing Committee for the 5th Forum in 2007. The Organizing Committee for the 5th Forum has made a decision to move its location to Niigata, the second largest city on the Japan Sea side famous of its beautiful sunset. As has been so in the previous Forums, every member of the Organizing Committee played each important role indispensable for the preparation of the 5th Forum. The very good teamwork of the Organizing Committee, which issued from the common recognition of the needs for this Forum, led its preparation to success. We have had more than 50 papers and nearly 80 participants for the present Forum. All the members of The Organizing Committee are grateful to Professor Gordon Davies in King's College London, Professor Jan Vanhellemont in Ghent University, Dr. Gudrun Kissinger in IHP Germany, and Ph.D. student Ms. Naomi Fujita in University of Exeter who kindly accepted our request of attendance to the present Forum. The Organizing Committee is also thankful for their high-quality papers contributed to this volume of the proceedings. The Organizing Committee also acknowledges for the total support by the Niigata University. The cooperation of Niigata Prefecture and Niigata City are also acknowledged.

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