

WECC2015 Newsletter No.5

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The Significance of Attending WECC2015 “Human Encounters Spark Innovation”



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In 1929 the World Engineering Congress (WEC) was held at Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo. Beginning on October 29 and running until November 6, it was a major international conference attracting 4,495 participants, 671 of whom were from overseas. Thus the origins of WECC2015 in Kyoto date back to 1929, when the Japan Federation of Engineering Societies pooled the resources of industry, academia and government to host the WEC. That Congress was a huge success, communicating to the world Japan's recovery from the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. The cornerstone of its success was the full support shown by industry, government, academia and the collective capabilities of the engineering community.

As well as providing a forum to communicate Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 and share initiatives based on lessons learned from that national crisis, this year's WECC can also be regarded as an extremely valuable opportunity to show that the global engineering community is united in pursuing scientific and technological innovation needed to create societies capable of sustainable development.

In this context, the significance of attending WECC2015 lies in exploring the feasibility of new possibilities, including drawing up a road map for creating networks aimed at identifying and resolving issues facing society with a view to achieving global sustainable development, discovering innovations and new markets created by technological advances, detecting new value triggered by interdisciplinary collaboration and networks and generating innovations associated with such value, finding R&D projects and business partners beyond the bounds of specialized fields, and discovering new global innovation projects involving collaboration among multiple disciplines and business domains.

Professor P.W. Anderson, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1977, famously said that “more is different”. The quality of WECC2015 will be determined by the number of international participants. In this sense, the key to the success of WECC2015 lies in attracting the largest possible number of attendees from around the world. This sentiment is also echoed by Professor Hiroshi Amano, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014 and plenary speaker at WECC2015, who said that we should direct all our energies at matters requiring attention now. WECC2015 will bring together representatives of industry, science, education, and government to direct all their energies to sharing practical examples of how engineering is supporting society and sparking innovation, as well as information related to these themes, with people all around the world. The first rays of light that will bring our hopes to life have begun to appear. By joining forces, we aim to build a brighter, more prosperous future. The future is just around the corner.

Conference Plenary Lecturers have been announced!

We are honored to announce that our conference Plenary Lecturers have been confirmed as follows:

November 30 (Mon.), 2015	
9:00-10:00	Opening Ceremony
10:30-12:30	Conference Plenary Lectures Part 1, 2, 3
	Ms. Flavia Schlegel Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO (On behalf of the Secretary General of UNESCO)
	H.E. Professor Dr. Han Seung-Soo UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea
14:00-16:00	Prof. Nobuo Tanaka Former Executive Director, International Energy Agency Visiting Professor, The University of Tokyo
	Conference Plenary Lectures Part 4, 5, 6
	Mr. Takeshi Uchiyamada Chairman of the Board, Toyota Motor Corporation Vice Chairman, KEIDANREN
	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
December 1 (Tue.), 2015	
9:00-9:50	Conference Plenary Lectures Part 7
	Prof. Hiroshi Amano Nagoya University 2014 Nobel Prize Laureate

WECC2015 Registration is now available online!

Registration and accommodation reservation is available from our official website:

<http://www.wecc2015.info/index.html>

We are looking forward to welcoming you all at the venue!

