

The Tenth Kuwait-Japan Joint Symposium



*Symposium participants:
Dr. Takeshige Takahashi, Professor Emeritus at Kagoshima University (center);
Mr. Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman, KNPC (left of center);
Dr. Najj Mohammed Al-Mutairi, Director General, KISR (right of center)*

JCCP and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) jointly hosted “The Tenth Kuwait-Japan Joint Symposium,” which was held on January 20 and 21, 2009 in an auditorium at KISR. The theme of this year’s symposium was “Clean Fuel Production and Heavy Oil Processing Technologies.”

The symposium has so far been held nine times since 1993, under subcontract by Japan Petroleum Institute (JPI). Since FY2005, it has been held annually, with this year marking its tenth implementation.

The symposium opened with words of greeting from Mr. Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), and Dr. Najj Mohammed Al-Mutairi, Director General, KISR. They expressed their appreciation to all parties present and their expectations for the success of the symposium, stating that “this year’s theme is one that is especially pertinent to the times, and is expected to be helpful in increasing research levels and technical capacities in the oil refining field in both Kuwait and Japan.” On the Japanese side, Dr. Koichi Eguchi, Professor at Kyoto University



Symposium venue: KISR auditorium



*Opening address: Dr. Koichi Eguchi, Professor,
Kyoto University Graduate School*

Graduate School, gave an opening address as leader of the group of speakers from Japan. He articulated his hopes that the symposium will provide a forum for the transfer of useful information to Kuwaiti researchers and contribute to strengthening research cooperation between Kuwait and Japan.

Under the main theme of the symposium, presentations focused on the sub-themes of “hydrogen production and clean fuel oil technologies” and “heavy oil hydrocracking technology for Kuwait crude,” which are expected to take on increasing importance in the future, and a new sub-theme of “oil refining and petrochemical integration.” Close to seventy Kuwaiti participants attended the symposium, including KISR researchers and engineers from KNPC’s three refineries.

The Japanese side gave five presentations, and the Kuwaiti side four, for a total of nine presentations. Active discussions and interaction took place between the speakers and the audience after each presentation.

The five Japanese speakers included university professors and corporate researchers who have made significant achievements in studies on hydrogen production, clean fuel production, and heavy oil processing. Their names and the titles of their presentations are as shown in the table below.

The next symposium is scheduled to be held in January 2010 under the theme, “Materials and Corrosion,” as strongly requested by KISR and KNPC.

<by Kazuhisa Okumura, Technical Cooperation Dept.>

Japanese Speakers and Their Presentation Titles

Name and affiliation	Presentation title
Dr. Koichi Eguchi Professor, Kyoto University Graduate School	Steam Reforming of Dimethyl Ether over Copper-based Spinel Catalysts
Dr. Mikio Miyake Professor, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology	Determination of Individual Components during Hydrocracking of Heavy Oil by Ultra-high Resolution Ft-ICR Mass Spectrometry
Mr. Shigeto Hatanaka Director, Fuel Research Laboratory, Nippon Oil Corporation	Five Years' Experience in Sulfur-free Gasoline and Diesel Production
Dr. Ryuzo Tanaka Chief Researcher, Advanced Technologies Research Laboratory, Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.	Asphaltene Aggregation and its Impact on Coking Reactivity
Mr. Naoto Aoyama General Manager, Global Marketing Division, JGC Corporation	Refinery and Petrochemical Integration Utilizing Heavy Oil Products