

Acknowledgments by the Chairman of the 19th general meeting of IMA in Kobe, Takamitsu Yamanaka

General Assembly and Science Meeting of the 19th International Mineralogical Association (IMA) were held from July 23rd to 28th, 2006 in Kobe, Japan. National Committee for Mineralogy of Science Council of Japan (SCJ) joined in IMA since the establishment of IMA in 1958. After IMA business meeting in 2002 in Edinburgh accepted the invitation from the National Committee of SCJ, IMA2006-KOBE was organized jointly by The Science Council of Japan, The Mineralogical Society of Japan, The association of Mineralogists, Petrologists and Economic Geologist and The Society of Resource Geology. The IMA conference in Kobe was held 36 years after Kyoto meeting in 1970.

We organizing committee would like to express our hearty thanks to all of participants for their cooperation and contribution to this conference. We are very happy to inform that the total number of registered participants is 975 (including accompanied parsons) from 50 countries. And 874 papers (oral presentation 488; poster presentation 386) were contributed during 6 days. Only a few cancellations (8 in oral and 6 in poster) make us happy.

The purpose of the Kobe meeting was assemble scientists and researchers in the field of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, resource geology and related sciences. Mineral science is now widely expanded not only in geosciences but also planetary science, bioscience and material sciences. In the present day Mineral scientists strongly contribute in inter-disciplinary fields. Consequently we decided the Catch Phrase of this conference was **Nano, Bio and Planetary sciences**. In consideration of many significant suggestions and comments from international program committee together with IMA Commission and Working Group, the local program committee prepared the current and meaningful science programs. We hope all participants could have a great satisfaction and appreciate the science discussion during the meeting. The 37 sessions were all interesting and exciting topics.

The participants in reception and banquets were both a big number of about 600 from the entire world and were keeping their friendships with the discussion of the recent progress and future sciences.

We organizing committee would like to express our great gratitude to the Science Council of Japan for the mutual cooperation and large financial foundation. We also extend our appreciation to KOBE CITY and many companies for their financial supports or donations. We also express our great thanks to Dr. K. Korokawa, President of SCJ and Mr. T. Yada, Kobe mayor for their speeches of the welcome and congratulatory addresses in the opening ceremony.

KOBE city is one of the most beautiful port cities in Japan. Unfortunately 11 years ago, enormous tragedy attacked KOBE city. More than 6000 lives were lost by the big earthquake. But the city was perfectly rebuilt. I personally believe many of participants enjoyed the night view of Kobe and hope they took pleasure in the Japanese culture by making use of this opportunity.

Finally the Kobe conference will be the sweet remembrance of all participants in their future life.