

## ***Greetings***

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me to speak at this conference, attended by more than 1,100 distinguished persons from overseas as well as from this country.

Looking back, it was just three years ago, in October 1981, that the first International Conference on Fifth Generation Computer Systems, FGCS '81, was held here in Tokyo under the sponsorship of the Japan Information Processing Development Center, with the support of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. That conference was the occasion of an announcement of research subjects and plans for Fifth Generation Computer System development in Japan and an enthusiastic exchange of opinions among the 300 attendees from 15 countries. Based on plans announced at the conference, MITI inaugurated a 10-year Fifth Generation Computer System project in April 1982. At the same time the Institute for New Generation Computer Technology was established as the central organization to implement the project.

As you know, the project is aimed at de-

veloping revolutionary knowledge-information-processing-oriented computer technology for the 1990s. It will hopefully provide an opportunity for us to contribute to the world in developing high technology in the so far unexplored fields of information technology, thereby building a innovative technology base of our own as well as making contributions to world society. The 10-yen project is planned to develop basic technology in its initial stage from 1982 to 1984, subsystems in its intermediate stage beginning in 1985, and a prototype total system in its final stage from 1989 to 1991.

Since its establishment ICOT has been receiving great support and cooperation from the government, MITI notably, universities and industry in carrying out research and development activities. The ICOT Research Center is staffed with some 50 researchers on loan from the Electro-technical Laboratory, Electrical Communications Laboratory of Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Public Corporation, and laboratories of computer manufacturers, among

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others. In pushing on with their research and development efforts, this staff has been backed by advisory groups of experts from government, universities and industry. I believe the researchers involved, including those of ICOT, have been steadily increasing in number and quality since the start of the project.

The initial stage of the project was funded by MITI with approximately ¥400 million in 1982, ¥2,700 million in 1983, and ¥5,100 million in 1984.

In the meantime, the inauguration of the Fifth Generation Computer Systems project in Japan created a sensation the world over, encouraging similar projects being started in the U.S. and major European countries. Now there is a gradual international exchange of researchers in this area.

This year is the last year of the initial stage of the project, and preparations are under way for the intermediate stage starting next year. Against the background stated earlier, we have organized this four-day international conference for the pur-

pose of reporting the research activity status and the results of the initial three years of the project, and for providing the opportunity for both Japanese and overseas researchers to report on their research efforts and exchange their opinions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Conference Chairman Tohru Motooka, Program Chairman Hideo Aiso, Public Relations Chairman Kinko Yamamoto, and Organizing Committee members for their dedicated assistance in organizing this conference.

This conference has been attended by more people than we expected and has also received numerous contributions of technical papers. It is our hope that cooperation and active exchanges of opinions by the attendees will make the conference very fruitful, thus providing a solid base on which to build the intermediate stage of the project and contributing to leading-edge computer technology research and development efforts throughout the world.

Thank you.