
Opening Address

Good morning. On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone for gathering here today.

It was three years ago, in October of 1981, that the first International Conference on Fifth Generation Computer Systems was held.

At that time, we discussed the plans of the Japanese Government for the research in a Fifth Generation computer, and made an appeal for joint efforts on the parts of the industrially advanced nations in proceeding with the project. Fortunately, we received cooperation from several nations, and a number of similar projects have been initiated in these countries as well. In our country, as President Katayama has already discussed, the ICOT organization was inaugurated in April of the following year. Research for the initial stage of Japan's Fifth Generation Computer Systems Project, to be carried out over ten years, was begun as planned, and already two and a half years have gone by.

At this second International Conference

on Fifth Generation Computer Systems, we would like to report on the state of research and development in Japan, conducted during these two and a half years of the initial project stage under the guidance of ICOT, and we look forward to hearing the opinions of all interested parties. At the same time, many researchers from several nations who are conducting related studies will report their research results in the latter half of the Conference; we hope that this will provide an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of information and mutual enlightenment.

In addition, we have planned an ICOT Open House for next week, and we have made arrangements for demonstrations in this lobby using a computer we call "PSI", which we intend to use as a tool in future research and development. We hope that you will also find these activities interesting and informative. Three years ago, at the closing of the previous international conference, we expressed our wish that this project become the equivalent, in the world of knowledge, of building a space shuttle.

Tohru Moto-oka

Conference Chairman
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What I had in mind at that time was, first, the fact that the space shuttle is not just launched into space for exploration; it serves rather as a tool to make such exploration economical. I was also referring to the fact that given such a tool, a wide variety of new fields of research had become possible. I would here like to consider once again these points, together with the goal of conducting the Fifth Generation Computer Systems Project on the basis of international cooperation. In this world, it seems that there are many who do their best only in an environment of competition; and it may be that "cooperation through competition" is the only sure way of eliciting vigorous activity from such persons. Thus it seems extremely important that there be competition in the construction of a so-called "space shuttle" for the future information society, and I in no way intend to deny the significance of competition.

However, there are any number of as yet unexplored regions in the world of knowledge, and there is a multitude of tasks that await us. Many experiments using the space

shuttle are being considered; for instance, a space station may be built, upon which various experiments could be conducted. And for Fifth Generation Computers as well, there are many different fields of application, and I believe it is important that individual nations, and even individual human beings, take responsibility for research in those areas in which they are especially competent. I believe that this form of cooperation is possible apart from the competition involved. I myself, and I am sure others as well, do not feel inclined to work in the face of conspicuous competition from others. I would like to take this opportunity to point out that there is a wide range of new research fields presenting themselves to such persons as well.

In closing, as Chairman of the Organizing Committee I would like to sincerely thank the many persons who have been so kind as to participate. I hope that through ample discussions in the four days to come, this Conference may take on an even greater significance.

Thank you.
