Welcoming Message

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It is a great privilege for me to be given the opportunity of speaking at FGCS '84.

The Fifth Generation Computer Systems Project inaugurated by Japan ahead of the rest of the world has been in existence for more than two years now. During this period there have been similar projects started in other countries. Speaking for the government, it is a pleasure to see so many people from 29 countries participating in this conference, intending to address goals and subjects common to the world. Also, we have a high opinion of the conference as a very significant opportunity for distinguished researchers in the world to exchange opinions on leading-edge technology of major importance.

The advance of information technology in recent years has been truly amazing. In particular, the quantum jumps achieved in microcomputers and other information processing technology and communications technology including fiber optics and communications satellites, coupled with the networking of these technologies, are adding to the sophistication and diversity of computer applications. Now computers are playing a vital role not only in industry but in all segments of society.

Further, it is expected that in the information society of the future various information systems for industry, society and consumers will be built on the communications infrastructure and will be interconnected to form a mammoth information system network. It is becoming very important to develop new computers that will meet the needs of such an advanced information society. In other words, it is of growing importance to develop computers that will be capable of freely handling voice, graphics, and so on used by us as means of communication and that will be easy to use even for non-professionals. And the capabilities required of such computers are not limited to mere computation and data processing but include management decision support and other sophisticated features.

The Fifth Generation Computer Systems Project is exactly aimed at developing such revolutionary computers. Its impact on the economy and society of the future will be really enormous.

In view of the importance and high-technology implications of fifth-generation computers, the government is prepared to push on more positively with the research and development project.

We would like to express our wholehearted thanks to all people who cooperated in holding this international conference, and we pay our regards to the efforts of all the people involved. We hope this conference will achieve its intended results.

Thank you.