

## Greetings

**Kozo Watanabe**  
Minister of International  
Trade and Industry



I am Kozo Watanabe. I am very pleased to welcome you all to the International Conference on Fifth Generation Computer Systems 1992. Firstly, I wish to express my gratitude and respect for Professor Hidehiko Tanaka of Tokyo University, who acted as the Conference Chairperson, and to other persons who made selfless endeavors in the planning and preparation for this conference, and to all members of ICOT, the host organization, for their laborious efforts in making the conference a reality.

This year will see the completion of our Fifth Generation Computer Systems project. The FGCS project that has been underway for more than 10 years since 1982 with a total budgetary appropriation of about 54 billion yen. I have always cherished a special personal feeling toward this project, because the preliminary study for the project was initiated 13 years ago when I was director of the Commerce and Industry Division of the Liberal Democratic Party's Deliberation Commission, and also because the budget for the initial phase of the project was approved when I was chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Industry in the House of Representatives.

Last year I had an opportunity to visit the ICOT research center in Mita and to hear directly from Dr. Fuchi about the magnificent results obtained under the project. Being a graduate of literature, I was unable to fully understand all that he explained to me, but it was clear that the project

had produced something marvelous. Dr. Fuchi allowed me to play "go" with the computer, which I found quite interesting. When I played a stone in a position which was completely outside the established moves of the game, I could clearly sense that the computer was at a loss. This both surprised and amused me as a layman. Unfortunately, I had no time to finish the game, and ever since I have been hoping to have another chance to play "go" with the computer.

Japan has become prosperous and now enjoys amicable relations and free economic and cultural interactions with all countries in the world under an umbrella of peace. For this reason, Japan's national policy has always been framed with prime consideration given to the share it should contribute toward the harmonious development of international society. The project has international significance in this connection in that it is intended to make valuable contributions to international society through basic research and development. By the tremendous and pioneering efforts of Dr. Fuchi and many other researchers of international renown, the project has successfully led the world in the development of knowledge information processing technology. During this time, the project has accelerated international exchange in Fifth Generation Computer Systems research, including the invitation of researchers from abroad for extended periods and the promotion of collaborative research plans with well-known overseas research

organizations.

We intend to offer the software resources and expertise developed in the 10-year project period to the entire world as internationally shared resources. I sincerely hope that this will work as a powerful incentive to the further development of science and technology in the world. Mankind is

destined to make untiring efforts to march forward in pursuit of infinite possibilities. I would like to conclude my greetings by expressing my fervent desire that this international conference will spur progress in science and technology and open the way for greater future possibilities for mankind.

Thank you.