

The Fourth Power Conversion Conference: PCC-Nagoya 2007 April 2-5, 2007, Nagoya Congress Center, Nagoya, Japan

The fourth Power Conversion Conference (PCC) was held in the vibrant city of Nagoya. With perfect timing to the cherry blossom season, the event was likely to become enjoyable as well as valuable for the participants.

The conference had a large variety of meetings with industrial session, plenary lectures, lecture sessions and dialogue sessions. The topics covered a wide field in power conversion, from low to high power in the area of power electronics, motors and alternative energy conversion systems.

The conference attracted researchers and experts from all over the world, with 264 papers from a total of 23 countries being scheduled for presentation. Each paper was reviewed by 3 experts prior to acceptance, ensuring high quality of all papers to be presented. As a result, 77.8 percent of submitted papers were accepted.

During the opening session, we could learn about the Japanese word “monozukuri” (making things), a word that is used to describe the Nagoya manufacturing culture. The strong presence of the Japanese power conversion industry at the conference improved the understanding of this word, with an industrial session taking place the first day, exhibition throughout the conference and also technical visits.

An important part of the conference was the keynote and plenary lectures, where acknowledged Professors, from around the world, introduced future trends in power conversion. Keywords in these presentations were: future electronic distribution systems, new motor/generator designs, power modules in power electronics and power density barriers.

The lecture and dialogue sessions were held from the second until the fourth day, going into more technical details of specific fields. Several lecture sessions were going in parallel, making it possible to make the most out of the time. The close proximity of the meeting rooms also made it possible to shift smoothly between different sessions. The lecture sessions were characterized by good organization (time keeping) and fruitful discussion and questions. Next to each meeting room, printed copies of the papers currently being presented were available,



Fig. 1. Author (center) and friends at the Banquet

making extensive discussions easier. All presenters at a given session could also meet for a breakfast or lunch meeting, giving a good opportunity to get in contact with other people working in the same area.

Networking, making friends and socializing is an important scope of a conference. The welcome reception was a good start, and this was followed up by an exciting banquet on Wednesday evening. The Executive Vice President of Toyota Motor Corporation, Mr. Takimoto, held an interesting talk about future mobility. I think many will remember the moment he asked: What is your ideal mobility? With a possible answer presented as being “Kintoun”, a flying carpet type transportation means from the Chinese story “Monkey Magic”. The banquet was also a superb combination of good food and wine with a nice atmosphere.

A possible way of measuring the success of a conference could be asking; Did you learn something which is important for your current work? Did you get to know any people that might influence your future? Did you have a good time? ; For me, the answers were three clear YES, and I think most participants would agree with me.

I would like to thank the organizers and the participants for making the conference a valuable, interesting and enjoyable experience, and I'm looking forward to the next PCC in Japan.

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(平成19年5月2日受付)