

## Importance of Cross-cultural Atmosphere



I am now a retiree after serving in an electrical manufacturer as an engineer over thirty years, and then engaged in teaching electrical engineering for about ten years. From the earlier career, I learned that the practices of engineering should be firmly based upon the fundamental scientific principles. In the later career, I have made efforts to convey this mental posture to young students.

The great scientific and technological advancements in Europe or U.S.A. from the industrial revolution owe to the interchange of thoughts among people of different backgrounds. This will be easily understood when one looks at the early electricity history, which is gradually shaped by the integration of great ideas from British, French, German, Italian, and American pioneers. Having spent two years at a university in England for PhD in 1970s, I myself realized the importance of this cosmopolitan environment or “cross-cultural atmosphere” in deepening and improving the quality of our researches. Since researchers from different countries or from different disciplines are likely to give totally new perspectives to a given problem, the discussions with them can lead our researches to interesting and truly significant directions.

We Asians have learned lots of things from West in every aspect of modern society. In this way, the electrical engineering of our region has seen a remarkable progress in the technology especially in the field of manufacturing. The very high reliability of high voltage apparatus and power equipments is the hallmark of great achievement of Japanese power industry backed by academic activities. Typical examples are the GIS utilizing SF<sub>6</sub> gas, the zinc oxide lightning arresters, and the 500 kV XLPE cables. Those progresses hitherto have been made by a hard work and a bit of luck, along the road toward already-known directions. However, our technical road to future is somewhat misty and uncertain nowadays. There is a growing pressure from the concern about global warming and the economical uncertainty such as the ever increasing oil price. The product’s high reliability is no longer our only target. I hope the researches in the Asia Pacific region will collaborate in the cross-cultural atmosphere and will lead to innovations in order to solve those difficult problems.

From above viewpoint, the organizers of this brochure had a far-seeing wisdom of first creating this news bulletin and a patience of constantly publishing for 15 years. It is desired that more people understand the significance of this activity and participate in the many related events cited here. In the mean time, the great goal or future innovations will be accomplished thanks to the cross-cultural interchange of ideas being promoted by the present movement.

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