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# PREFACE

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Prof. T. Takada

International cooperative research and education start from visiting each other.

The 1996 Asian International Conference on Dielectric and Electrical Insulation is going to be held in Xiang, China from October 8 to 11, and the 5th International Conference on Properties and Applications of Dielectric Materials is held from June 20 to 24 in Seoul, Korea. These meeting is the result of how Asian researchers are getting more and more active in working together both on research and education. I believe that the research activity itself is the education for the young researchers. Developing cooperative research among foreign groups is such an effective and attracting way to accomplish the purpose of educating young researchers. Here I introduce my own experience of how the cooperative research has started between my laboratory and others in foreign countries.



In 1981 I had an opportunity to have a cooperative research with a laboratory abroad for the first time. There were three researchers from Asian countries including me, from Japan, who was 40 years old at that time, and a great and powerful professor from China, and a young graduate student from Korea. The Chinese professor was Prof. Zyu Liu who organized the 1st ICPADM. He was one of the great professors who were visiting major universities of the world to inspect and to study, right after the end of the great culture revolution in China. I learned a lot about the educational condition and students of their universities through communications with them. So many things were new to me. Even though they are neighboring countries, I had poor knowledge about them. And then I got interested in visiting their universities in China and Korea.

In 1985 I visited China for the first time to participate in the 1st ICPADM which was held in Xiang. The most impressive thing was the eagerness of the graduate students. Those young students worked hard for the meeting in the background to make it successful. They were so interested in the United States, Europe, and Japan. They asked me many things about my country such as the campus life, economic activities and many other topics. Now 10 years has passed since then, they are playing important roll in various places of the world. I felt that the international academic meetings stimulates young people and give them chance for starting new researches.

In 1989 I traveled in Korea for a week with one of my friends visiting universities, research centers and industrial companies. Each place, we had such a warm welcome. What impressed me most was that how well young researchers, who had acquired an academic degree in foreign universities, took us around their laboratories. They are very enthusiastic about their research work and concerning education. It seems that they are very much concerned about what they want or should do for the future. Many of them are now working for the 5th ICPADM meeting, which is held in Seoul in 1997, as the committee member. I am looking forward to join that to meet my old friends and to be friend with young researchers.

Each time I visit international academic meetings and foreign laboratories, I discussed about the opportunities of having cooperative research work with them including exchanging students and mutual visiting of students. Through my experience, I believe that mutual visiting of laboratories and cooperative research work have so much means to improve the research work of the young generation.

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