
Opening address

Ladies and gentlemen!

Welcome to the 1st International RIKEN Symposium on “Laser Precision Microfabrication (LPM 2000)”, organized by Dr. K. Sugioka, Dr. T. Sigmon, and myself.

Recent advances in laser technologies with short pulse and short wavelength beams have enabled rapid growth in the laser precision microfabrication (LPM) of products in the areas of electronics, optoelectronics, micromachining, and medical devices. In view of the impact of LPM, RIKEN - The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research, the Japan Laser Processing Society (JLPS) and SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering have worked to provide an in-

ternational forum for exchanging technical information between scientists, end users and developers in the field of LPM around the world. The symposium is planned as a three-day event with oral and poster presentations as well as tabletop exhibitions to facilitate the progress of science and the technology, clarify the present status of LPM, define critical LPM techniques to be developed and forecast future markets of LPM. Scientists and engineers from 13 countries are presenting their recent research results at LPM 2000. It is our sincere hope that this symposium is very fruitful for all participants and for the future of LPM.

Thank you very much.

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