

## Opening Address

*Shigebumi Aoki*

The General Chairman of PATRAM '92 Organizing Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure and rare proud for me to declare the 10th International Symposium on Packaging Transportation of Radioactive Materials, PATRAM '92, open in Japan. I am also privileged to have the opportunity to welcome each of the participants and attendees, many of whom came long distances to attend and contribute to the symposium and join in this opening ceremony.

As you know well, the first Symposium was held at Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1965, under the sponsorship of Atomic Energy Committee United States of America. At that time the submitted papers were not so many and the themes were limited in the small area of radioactive material problem. Since then, the symposiums have been held every three years, for a total of nine times in the United States, Germany and Switzerland. During twenty seven years, more and more papers have been presented and the number of participating nations have increased steadily and also the fields which have been discussed in the symposium have expanded to include wide and various problems concerning transportation of yellow cake, uranium-hexafluoride, uranium-oxide, plutonium-oxide, new fuel assemblies, spent fuels, low level wastes, high level wastes and various kind of radioactive isotopes, etc. These symposiums have promoted to join forces and collaborate internationally. It is as plain as daylight that the nine times symposiums which have already taken place have formed a very important forum for exchange of informations among countries. The obtained valuable results and effective experiences have been vital, not only in amending the International Regulations for the Safe Transportation of Radioactive Materials as issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but also in improving technology and engineerings in the fields of transport systems, package and packaging design for radioactive materials. In addition, these results seem to supply strong supports for the public acceptance about the transportation of radioactive materials, which is nowadays aimed as a big target of the campaigns against nuclear power. I believe, it is meaningful obviously that the commemorative tenth PATRAM symposium will achieve great success and play an important role to establish wide and deep understanding of the public.

Here, I would like to introduce briefly City Yokohama where so many participants are visiting now from all over the world. I should point out that Yokohama was not only the second large city next to Tokyo in Japan at one time, but also the port which had accomplished very remarkable contribution toward transport works in modern-day Japan. Yokohama is located on the main road Tokaido, from the ancient capital of Japan, Kyoto, to the present capital, Tokyo. The famous wood engraving used as the poster of PATRAM '92 indicates the scenery at an old relay station Hodogaya on the west part of Yokohama City, from where Mt. Fuji was viewed very beautifully. Famous painter Hiroshige drew the excellent landscape from Yokohama and transport behaviors on the main road together, namely on foot, on horseback and in a palanquin, which were fundamental

methods of transportation in human life together. In addition, Yokohama often played historical roles. In 1858 the commercial treaties were concluded with a number of foreign countries and then in 1859 Yokohama was opened officially as a trade port. A modern shipyard was constructed at this PATRAM space and sent out many various types of ship onto the world ocean. In 1872 the first railway in Japan was constructed and opened to traffic between Yokohama and Tokyo. It is special worth while were mentioning that in 1965 irradiated fuels from some research reactors were shipped to the United States from Yokohama pier for its reprocessing. Thus the city has played a big technological role in Japanese modern history. I am very proud of welcoming you at this historical old but modern city Yokohama.

Finally, my gratitude must go to each of the participants and attendees. First I wish to express my great appreciation to the Department of Energy United States of America for the active cooperation and valuable advices to hold the symposium. Second I would like to thank all members of the international committee and the international paper selection committee, who have taken valuable time from their busy schedules to attend the committees held at Washington D.C. in last February. Also I should mention that the large financial supports were provided by research establishments and industry groups. I should express my special gratitude for their contribution to open PATRAM '92. Lastly I would like to appreciate all members of some national preparatory committees, who shared with us many experiences and efforts to carry out many troublesome practical affairs, in order to lead this symposium to success.

Thank you so much again.