



The IMLB-12 conference included an excursion to Horyuji Temple, the world's oldest wooden structure, located south of Nara.

## 12<sup>th</sup> IMLB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Lithium Batteries, IMLB-12, was held June 27 to July 3, 2004 at the Nara Centennial Hall in Nara, Japan; Nara was the east end of the Silk Road and had been the glorious capital about 1,300 years ago. This meeting, organized by ECS, was the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the well-established conference series on lithium battery research and technology. Over 700 participants, the largest contingent yet, from academic and industrial laboratories around the world (27 countries), attended and contributed to the scientific program with the presentation of 429 technical papers. The IMLB-12 chair was Zempachi Ogumi (Kyoto University), and the co-chairs were Frank McLarnon (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) and Claude Delmas (ICMB of CNRS). A five-member advisory committee, 22-member international scientific committee, 20-member local organizing committee, and eight-member secretariat provided guidance and help to the meeting chair.

The meeting opened on Sunday, June 27, with a reception at the Mitsui Garden Hotel in Nara. The technical sessions began on Monday, June 28, and continued through Friday, July 2, with a series of 58 invited oral presentations and 371 poster presentations in the Tuesday and Thursday evening poster sessions. Session breaks in between the oral presentations were held in the poster session area, where attendees had another opportunity to see and peruse posters in addition to the poster session time.

The first presentation was delivered by Tien Duong (U.S. Department of Energy, DOE) and Frank McLarnon, who not only provided a comprehensive overview of the policy on the U.S. DOE R&D Program on advanced batteries for electric (EV) and hybrid-electric (HEV) vehicles, but also gave a thoughtful perspective on the fruitful results of the program. Jiqiang Wang (Tianjin Institute of Power Sources) then described recent advances in lithium-ion batteries for HEV, EV, and personal electric vehicle (PEV) applications in the Chinese 863 National Plan. The remainder of the IMLB program was structured in topical sessions, including anodes, cathodes, electrolytes, electrode/electrolyte interface, materials and cell design, and

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Zempachi Ogumi, chair of IMLB-12, enjoyed a quiet moment before the busy conference began.

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The organizers fully participated in the meeting activities -- (from left to right) Bruno Scrosati of the Advisory Committee; and Frank McLarnon and Claude Delmas, the co-chairs of IMLB-12.

battery development and applications. The oral and poster presentations combined to provide the audience with an excellent update on the state of lithium battery science and technology, as well as the prospects for present and future applications in the commercial, transportation, aerospace, and biomedical sectors.

On Monday evening, a welcoming concert was given by Naori Uchida on harp, Toyoko and Kayo Ogumi on flute (wife and daughter of Prof. Ogumi, respectively) at Harmony Hall of Nara Centennial Hall, which provided a relaxing interlude for the conference. In addition, on Wednesday afternoon, attendees were invited to an excursion to Horyuji Temple, which is the world's oldest surviving wooden structure. Although it was a very hot day, the attendees enjoyed the tour and had a chance to learn one aspect of the origin of Japanese culture. At the Wednesday evening banquet, a dozen attendees—including Prof. Ogumi, Dr. McLarnon, Dr. Delmas, and Prof. Scrosati—challenged the Japanese drum performers. This “dueling drums” performance

was greatly enjoyed by all attendees. Thus, IMLB-12 provided a venue not only for the exchange of technical knowledge and information but also an opportunity to develop and deepen friendships.

The next IMLB meeting (which will be called IMLB 2006, not IMLB-13) is scheduled to be held June 18-23, 2006 in Biarritz, France, and will be chaired by Dr. Claude Delmas. ■

*These meeting highlights were contributed by Kuniaki Tatsumi, AIST National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology.*