



Going Global

The information revolution of the nineties is creating strong links among nations, people, and companies, even as the embrace of free markets around the globe is fueling enormous increases in international commerce. Not to be left behind, the science and technology enterprise is forging global links also. As an invited speaker at the recent Asian Conference of Electrochemistry in Tokyo, I had an opportunity to witness this trend first hand on a continental scale. This gathering, the third such in a

series, seeks to bring together electrochemistry researchers from Asian and Pacific Rim countries.

The Electrochemical Society has taken a pro-active role in the globalization of science and technology. The success of the Joint Meetings with Japan in Honolulu and the Joint ECS-ISE Meeting in Paris and San Francisco (the latter to be held next year) is direct testimony to this, as is the establishment of ECS Local Sections in Europe, Japan, Korea, and Israel. With increasing membership and increased involvement at all levels within the Society from the electrochemistry/solid-state technology community outside North America, we can expect ECS to evolve into a truly international society.

Perhaps no other technology is as globally employed—in developed, developing, and under-developed countries alike—as the one featured in this issue, namely batteries. Battery technology also dates back several centuries, which perhaps explains its worldwide utilization. For those with an historical bent of mind, I refer you to an excellent treatise that appeared as an ECS proceedings (Volume 87-14, "History of Battery Technology," edited by A. J. Salkind). As with the internal combustion engine, some things never change, and the workhorse lead-acid battery certainly belongs to this category. Its technology continues to undergo evolutionary changes and refinements. Perhaps there will come a time when we will never have to "jump start" our cars at all!

Finally, keen observers of *Interface's* masthead will notice changes in the Contributing Editor team that again reflects globalization: Professor Tetsuya Osaka of Waseda University, Tokyo, will coordinate the reporting of technology developments and other news from Japan (and Asia as a whole). His debut piece appears as the *JapanWatch* column in this issue. In the months ahead, we hope to add more people as Contributing Editors, from the U.S. and other parts of the world, including Europe. Stay tuned and let us know how we are doing.

Raj K.

Krishnan Rajeshwar
Editor

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