



A Turning Point for ECS

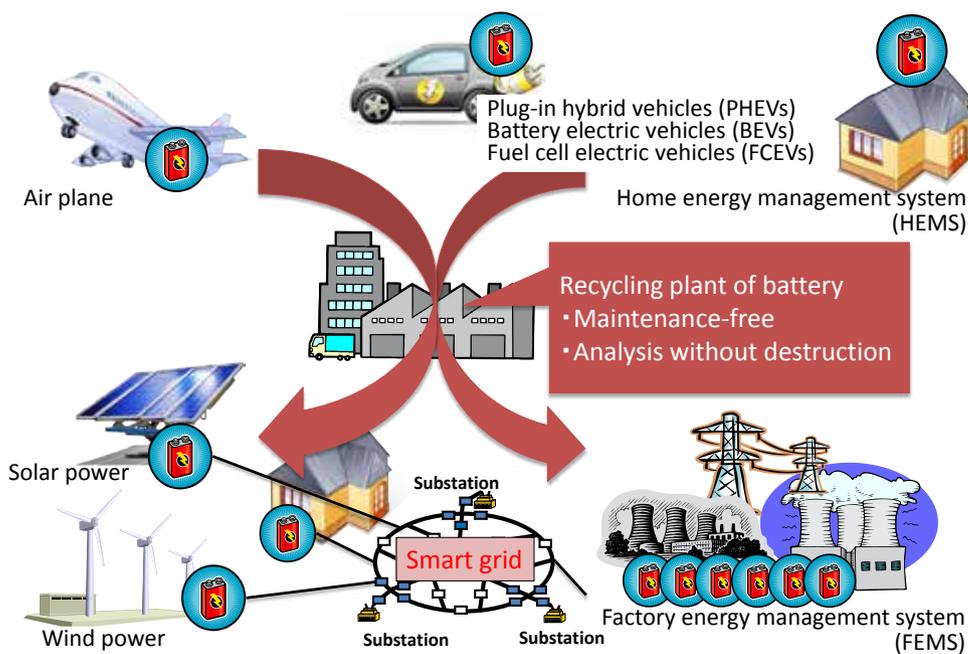
It is a great pleasure and unique honor for me to serve as President of ECS, especially considering that I will be the first person from Japan to fill this important role. Despite some minor difficulties due to the time zone difference (days and nights are reversed), I have always enjoyed traveling to the headquarters office in Pennington, NJ, and to ECS meetings throughout the world. It has been a wonderful experience to be involved in such an important organization and to learn all the important initiatives that ECS is constantly carrying out for promoting electrochemical and solid state science and technology. I will certainly devote all my efforts to serve ECS with the aim of consolidating its success and high reputation in the scientific community. Indeed, we have seen in recent years a continuous increase in the number of attendees at the biannual ECS meetings. I believe that this acceleration is motivated by the growing concern on environmental and energy issues.

Electrochemistry plays a unique role in addressing those issues by developing new batteries to power sustainable cars or storage alternatives, and green energy sources; hence the growing importance of a society such as ECS that represents electrochemistry in all its scientific and technological aspects. Indeed batteries are key devices for promoting innovations, as shown schematically in the figure, and ECS has constantly devoted particular attention to these electrochemical storage devices.

Unfortunately, here in Japan we have dramatically experienced an urgent need for this type of innovation—especially in the case of energy renewal—by the tragic disaster that struck Tohoku, Japan two years ago. Consequently, the present concern worldwide is to prevent other similar cases by promoting new energy scenarios. ECS is in the lead in this important race as demonstrated by the launch of the Electrochemical Energy Summit at the ECS Boston Meeting in 2011. I am particularly glad that the Summit will take place again at my first ECS meeting as President in San Francisco this coming fall.

Another important development at ECS is in the management of its publications. The impact factor is an important parameter that drives the choice of where the scientific community submits its publications. The importance of “the” impact factor may be disputable but it continues to have an impact on authors. Because of the way the impact factor is calculated, last year the Society made the decision to create new journals, with two to cover the electrochemistry side, and two journals to cover the solid state side. This will ensure that the ECS journals are categorized properly within the Science Citation Index. The Society’s flagship, *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, continues its high-quality, peer-reviewed publication, but now with a focus on electrochemical science and technology.

Possibilities of Innovation from Battery Systems



It will be one of my main goals to encourage the Japanese electrochemistry and solid state communities to submit their best results to JES and the new journals, so as to substantially contribute to their growth.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the 224th ECS Meeting in San Francisco.

Tetsuya Osaka
ECS President