

## Inauguration of Japan Committee on WYP2005

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We have established "Japan Committee on WYP2005 " on October 1, 2004 in order to promote public awareness of physical sciences and to encourage cooperation among various scientific societies, academic institutions, industry, media and administrative institutions. The initiative was taken by five physics societies, such as Physical Society of Japan, Japanese Society of Applied Physics, Japanese Society of Physics Education, Japanese Society of Biophysics and Japanese Astronomy Society, by Association of Japanese Engineering Societies and by Japan Science Foundation (JSF). This committee will be an open system in that any individual and corporation, who are interested in WYP2005 activities, can be members. It is open to academic societies of wider fields such as chemical sciences, engineering sciences, biological sciences and so on as well as industrial societies, including The Chemical Society of Japan, The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, The Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan. In this sense, it is an epoch-making endeavor in the history of Japanese sciences and engineering to have such an interdisciplinary cooperation for promotion of public awareness of science and technology. This movement is along with recent declaration ( May 2004 ) of Science Council of Japan, which emphasizes the importance of public understanding of sciences and of cooperative efforts of scientists for this purpose.

WYP2005 Japan Committee will initiate, coordinate and fund the following activities of participating bodies, individual or corporation:

1. Physics Dialogue with Society: public lectures
2. Physic Outreach to Society: demonstrations of science in schools
3. Physics Instruments Exhibition: exhibition of modern technology and its scientific basis
4. Physics Contests of Youth: high school students contest in physics, junior sessions in physics society meetings
5. Physics Publication and Media: publication of pedagogical books or media in physics
6. Physics Friends Awards: thanks to those who contributed science by funding
7. International Cooperation
8. Publicity and Coordination of activities

Organization of Japan Committee is as follows:

President: Dr. Akito Arima ( President of JSF );

Steering Committee: chair Dr. Kazuo Kitahara ( Member of SCJ, professor of ICU ),

members are representatives of participating public entities;  
General Secretary: Dr. Naotaka Oki ( Board member of JSF, vice president of Hiroshima University )

Main events in 2005 organized by Japan Committee:

1. Physics contest of high school students, "Physics Challenge 2005", will be held on August 12-15, 2005 at Okayama Shizutani School by the initiative of Okayama Photo Quantum Science Institute, Physical Society of Japan, Japanese Society of Applied Physics and Japanese Society of Physics Education. This contest includes theoretical and experimental contests of physics among high school students. The site was chosen because Okayama was the birthplace of Dr. Nishina, a founder of modern physics in Japan. It should be noted also that Shizutani School was one of few higher education institutions for general public people in the 18th century run by the local lord.
2. There will be a ceremonial assembly of all participating entities with the theme "Physics for the future of mankind" in April, 2005. This assembly includes lectures by prominent scientists, dialogue between science and arts, demonstration of combination of arts and science. Some artistic performances, such as a traditional "No" play related to "Einstein" will be planned.
3. Japan Committee will organize public events in summer 2005 in Tokyo and in Nagakute, the site of Aichi Exhibition in collaboration with Japan Science Foundation.

Japan Committee opened web page "[www.wyp2005.jp](http://www.wyp2005.jp)" which is linked to the web pages of participating entities so that the public may know what are going for WYP2005 all over Japan. Japan Committee will make fund-raising to support WYP activities of all participating entities in Japan. Japan Committee will ask all physics departments and research institutions of physical sciences to give "open department days".