



The style of IMS Annual Review was largely modified from the last issue, and we believe that this new style is much more attractive and informative.

The re-structuring of IMS into four Departments and seven Research Centers has been functioning nicely and stimulated new collaborations.

In addition to the four special programs going on, two new ones supported by the MEXT have started this fiscal year: (i) “Networked Laboratories for the Frontiers of Photon Science and Technology” in collaboration with the Advanced Photon Research Center of Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, Osaka University and Kyoto University, and (ii) “Quantum Beam Development Program” in collaboration with Kyoto University and Nagoya University.

The network system for efficient mutual use of experimental equipments covering 72 universities has been upgraded so that users can utilize the system with high usability and security. We really hope that this system will be strongly financially supported so that the basic research activities in Japan can be kept and further promoted.

In this 2008 fiscal year four new faculty members have joined us: Professor Masahiro HIRAMOTO, Professor Koichi KATO, Professor Masahiro EHARA, and Associate Professor Mizuki TADA (from October). Two more new members are expected in the latter half of this fiscal year. Although the severe financial circumstances are still continuing because of the tight financial condition of the government, we always have to strive to carry out excellent researches at IMS as a Center of Excellence.

This volume of Annual Review is a summary of research activities performed at IMS in the period of September 2007–August 2008. As usual a lot of activities are going on and we are proud of that. Any constructive comments and/or questions are welcome. It is also a great pleasure to announce that many colleagues received various prizes as explained in this volume.

September, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Nakamura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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