

Preface

The *international workshop for Surface Analysis and Standardization '09* (iSAS-09) is the first international workshop organized by the Surface Analysis Society of Japan (SASJ). The scope of the iSAS is focused on productive discussions among young researchers working in analytical laboratories to expand and deepen their skills, technique, and knowledge.

Nowadays, materials and devices with high performance have been developed remarkably, and we, in surface analysis, are urged to catch up with this rapid development. According to these trends, commercial or self-designing machines for analyzing surface and interface have been improved for the multi- and high- functional capability. However, the progress in surface analysis does not necessarily follow from the development of these machines. It is the highly-skilled surface analysts that build up the progressive technological system of surface analysis.

The skills of surface analysts are surely changing. Dealing with a wide variety of new materials and structurally-complex new devices requires the comprehensive examination of a wide variety of spectra and images obtained by different surface analysis machines. Needless to say, it is essential to gain wide knowledge and skills in surface analysis and material science. Especially, young surface analysts must go into the new world beyond the well-known limited field of surface analysis.

Database and standardization of knowledge and skills in surface analysis can be the mother ship for young surface analysts to sail out into this new world. The participants of iSAS-09 are the crew. This mother ship, still under construction, should be composed of a combination of the enthusiasm of young surface analysts and the rich experience of masters. I hope the frank and lively discussions at iSAS-09 will be the compass of our mother ship of surface analysis.

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