

Case Study

2019 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 2019)

2019 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 2019) was held from 28th July to 2nd August 2019 at PACIFICO Yokohama.

After the success of the Congress, Prof. Akira Hirose, General Chair of IGARSS 2019 Organizing Committee had kindly sent us his comment from his experience in Yokohama.

1. 2019 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 2019) took place in Japan for the first time in 26 years since 1993, when the symposium was held at Kogakuin University in Tokyo. Will you tell us about the significance and results of the symposium?

In the quarter century since the last IGARSS was held in Japan, global environmental changes have further intensified and become more serious, raising the importance of geoscience and remote sensing more than ever before. In that context, it was very significant that this international symposium was organized in Yokohama, Japan. Japan is one of the world's leading countries that drive forward scientific technology in these fields, and Yokohama is home to clusters of universities, national research institutions, companies and other relevant organizations. Hosting the symposium here helped spur interchanges substantially among researchers and students from around the world.



2. There were a wide range of social events. What did you care in arranging for the events?

Firstly, we had the honor of holding the opening ceremony with the presence of the Emperor and Empress. The Emperor's speech at the ceremony left an impression on us that His Majesty has strong interest and hope in this field, so we researchers were encouraged and thought afresh about the weight of our responsibility. In the reception, we had a pleasant, genial conversation with the Emperor and the Empress on technological matters.



Overseas researchers, in particular, were pleased to have such an impressive experience.

As social events, we organized a technical tour to research institutes in the vicinity of Yokohama, a cultural tour to Kamakura and other locations, an event to enjoy an evening of jazz in Yokohama, a houseboat cruise, and a football event, which has become an annual affair of this symposium. We also had the event "Noge Evening" at the proposal of PACIFICO Yokohama. It was designed for overseas participants who were unfamiliar with Japanese customs to experience what Japan's casual atmosphere is like. With tickets in hand, they had a chance to casually enter *izakaya* pubs in the district of Noge. This was well received as an opportunity to see the true face of Japan.

3. We assume that most overseas participants made their first-ever trip to Yokohama. Did you hear anything about their impressions of Yokohama?

I heard very favorable comments about the Minato Mirai district, which they said has a beautiful and functional town and is comfortable to stay. For instance, they were pleased that they could find malls nearby like Queen's Square YOKOHAMA, and that they could choose restaurants and have meals conveniently at lunchtime even in the middle of summer. I also heard many participants say it was wonderful because public transportation services in the neighborhood are good and the venue is close to Tokyo International Airport.



4. How was the support of the City of Yokohama and Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau (YCVB)?
What did you find particularly helpful? Please tell us what you expect the host city to do in the future.

Since well before the event, the City of Yokohama and YCVB had provided us with various information and a lot of assistance, including subsidies. We are grateful for their support. In particular, the education and outreach activity “Let’s find from the universe! What the Earth looks like with remote sensing” was adopted for Yokohama’s Next-Generation Project. We appreciate their assistance for this activity, including public relations campaigns for elementary and junior high students. Looking at the bright eyes of many children gathered for the event, I felt happy thinking that some of them would surely become researchers in the future.



About IGARSS2019;

Convention name: 2019 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 2019)

Organization: IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society

Date: July 28 - August 2, 2019

Venue: PACIFICO Yokohama