President's Address

On Celebrating
the 20th Anniversary

KOJI KOBAYASHI*

Information Processing Society of Japan was established in April 1960 with the aim of promoting the progress and propagation of the research and technology about information processing. This year, IPSJ has had the 20th anniversary of its foundation. The growth and expansion achieved is due to the generous and hearty assistance by the members of all fields concerned.

Looking back on the information processing field of Japan during the latter half of the fifties, there was a strong interest in developing the electronic computer as an information processing device and it was stimulated by the rapid progress of the developed countries, especially in USA. Then, they were trying to introduce the computers experimentally searching for a clear direction of actual development. The total produced value of computers and peripherals in Japan in 1960 was only 2.5 billion yen** according to the Year Book of Machinery Statistics issued by Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

However, at that time, the desire to introduce the computer in various fields was strong, for example, in scientific calculation data processing and economical statistics. The revolution was small in scale, but rapid in progress.

The same situation prevailed in the developed countries of Europe and USA. They were establishing computer society or information processing society one after another. "The 1st international conference of information processing" was held in June 1959 in Paris under the auspices of UNESCO 1780 members from 37 countries participated. They discussed international cooperation in this field.

In principle, UNESCO should sponsor this kind of conference the first time promoting the participants to organize an international academic allies. After its establishment, the organization should be self managed.

According to this principle and the result of the discussion at the conference in Paris, the International Federation of Information Processing Society (IFIPS) was established on the 1st of January 1960 with 12 countries participating. Its head office was in Brussel. The new-born IFIPS eagerly asked other countries, including Japan, to join.

Japan was making an effort toward international cooperation in data processing field, since it had ratified the international treaty for an international calculation center established in Rome. Starting in the summer of 1959 representatives of many field such as academy, industrial, and press met over a period of 6 months for discussions on the whole Japan should play.

In order to participate in the 1st general assembly of IFIPS in June of 1960, Information Processing Society of Japan was established in April 1 1960 after meetings of projectors, councils in March.***

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*President, The Information Processing Society of Japan.
**1,123 billion yen in 1979.
***Ministry of Education approved the society on the 17th of December 1963.

The activities of the society were started at the general meeting on April 22. The 1st president inaugurated was Prof. Hideo Yamashita.

Since then, the society has had a remarkable growth for 20 years due to the excellent leadership of its 9 presidents.

The number of members is now 13,770 (at the end of 1979) which is about 40 times the 353 members of the early days.

Since starting publication 178 volumes of about 14,000 pages of the magazine "Information Processing" have been issued, eight volumes of the English version have been issued since 1978.

The scale of budget has also expanded about 60 times compared to that of 20 years ago. It shows the wide scope of the activities. The regular all Japan conference has been held 20 times 14,000 members attended a total of 3,675 reports of researches were given.

In the beginning, there was a rule that special research has a research committee to set and decide its activity.

Since 1973, however, the research committee had normally established, its activities have become more vigorous with 20 completed research projects 12 continuous programs and 2 activity committees.

The completed researches are arranged as research activity reports or issued as technical publications. The hand book of information processing which has been revised 3 times, is one of the most useful documents for engineers in this field.

Lectures, symposiums and technical meetings have been held in all parts of Japan for promoting information processing science. Over 150 such meetings have been held including some in cooperation with other academic societies. They have been appreciated and produced fruitful results.

IPSJ also has a domestic committee supporting for the activities of IFIP, which had a role in international cooperation by participating in 7 of the World Congress of IFIP. Moreover, it worked for the organization of the 1st and 2nd joint computer conference of USA and Japan, and as sponsor for the 3rd conference. It has contributed to the intercharge and progress for computer technique of both countries. The 8th World Computer Congress will be held in October 1980 in Tokyo and Melbourne. It shows that IPSJ supports IFIP'S activities.

So I have a favour to ask of you, IPSJ wants your assistance and support to assure the success of this Congress.

The activities of this society have shown results, but it has not always been easy to achieve.

In the early days of the society, understanding the way to develope was not always clear, and there were economical difficulties. However, these problems have been overcome one by one.

These results are due to common sense, the eager and continuous efforts of the presidents, vice-presidents, officers, personnel and members of the society. I should like to express my hearty respects and thanks to all these people.

Now, as for the future situation, it is full of opportunities and also full of difficulties. It is needless to say that information processing technology is widely used in the activities of all fields-supporting the effective progress of the society. Further the society is looking at more expansion and wider and higher promotion for more development in information processing science with great hope anticipation.

To meet this expectation it is necessary to keep a balance of technology, industry and application by stimulating and progressing side by side. Our members are talented people in various fields for looking for an effective interchange of information. So I believe that IPSJ should contribute to the society by promoting excellent research with keeping this construction of the members.

In the future, there are many problems to be solved in the course of activities of the society. I should like to point out some of these.

1st: The standardization of the fundamental techniques for applied information processing science which could have a great effect in the future on hardware, software, application, system and resource sharing (for example data base net work). In promoting research on standardization, it is necessary to concentrate on the theme from a range of views for selecting the type of research and the method of promoting it.

2nd: The establishment a basic policy through discussion to meet the software crises. As software represents intellectual product of men, sooner for later there must be a crises because of limited human resources in similar way to brick laying.

It is one of the most important problem to be solved and prevented in our field. For this theme, IPSJ should study the situation, appreciate the proposed method, promote the development, and find a better method from the long range viewpoint.

3rd: Further study on Man-machine Interface. Today, though the processing technique of information in the system is highly developed, the input-output technique is expected the more development by great effort.

The developments of theory and technology of pattern recognition—letter, voice, figure and image—are not only to reduce the load of the operator, but necessary to raise the power of the systems. It is no exaggeration to say that this is a key to solving one of the big social problems "the balance of man and machine".

4th: The activeness of the international cooperation, IPSJ have issued the report magazines of English version, participated and sponsored many kinds of international event, and deliberated international standardization. We should make more effort for international interchange to establish the study and technology contributing to the world progress the 8th World Computer Congress will be the good chance for this activity.

The prosperity of IPSJ in future will mainly depend on the expansion of members. For this object, the basic condition is the continuous activity which is intimate to young people and lightly academic with dignity. I should like to pointout that all the personnel and members should promote the academy to support the growth of the young members.

As I have mentioned, the range of this field is rapidly growing and expanding. Thinking of the results of achievement during the past 20 years, I hope all members of IPSJ will make a concerted effort for a brighter future.