

On Announcing the Sixth TRIZ Symposium in Japan, 2010

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Since TRIZ, i. e. the “Theory of Inventive Problem Solving” , was introduced to Japan in 1996 as a philosophy, methodology and knowledge engineering tool to strongly support technology innovation in the industrial arena, a lot of application experiences have been accumulated by Japanese users interested in TRIZ. Nowadays, it has been applied in a variety of contexts as an effective tool also for software problems, business innovation and even for developing children’s creativity.

Until now, 5 annual TRIZ Symposia in Japan have been organized. Last year, though this symposium was held during the global recession of Lehman’s fall, fruitful discussions and various interactions could be realized with 42 presentations including 14 from abroad, 1 tutorial and 1 introductory discussion session, attended by 137 participants including 19 from abroad.

This year, keeping the venue within the Tokyo metropolitan area and holding it at a university for the first time with support from the local Kanagawa Prefecture, the symposium will be held at Kanagawa Institute of Technology (1030 Shimo-ogino, Atsugi City, Kanagawa Prefecture; about 60 minutes by express train on the Odakyu Line from Shinjuku Station to Hon-Atsugi Station, thereafter about 25 minutes by bus) for 3 days from Thursday the 9th to Saturday the 11th of September .

The application due date for presenting at this symposium was May 24th, and currently, 39 presentations including 11 from 7 foreign countries, 1 tutorial (“Let’s Know TRIZ” for novices) and 1 introductory discussion session with participants from abroad are planned.

Besides planning group discussion sessions on several themes in the evening, invited lectures of five special interest topics have been specially set up under the theme “New Fields and New Users” this time. In addition, an introductory seminar on OTSM-TRIZ (OTSM is an acronym for the Russian phrase meaning “General Theory on Powerful Thinking”, and OTSM-TRIZ is a developed version of TRIZ for addressing large-scale complex problems not confined to technical field), which is not familiar yet in Japan, will be hosted on Wednesday, September 8th as a related event of this symposium.

We have invited Mr. Nikolai Khomenko, TRIZ Master certified by Genrich Altshuller, from Canada and Mr. Mahmoud Karimi, Vice President of Iranian Institute of Innovation

& Technological Studies (IIITS), from Iran for the keynote lectures.

Mr. Nikolai Khomenko will deliver a lecture about the 25-year findings and future direction of OTSM-TRIZ, whereas Mr. Mahmoud Karimi will tell us about the social activities to promote TRIZ in Iran.

The invited lectures of five special interest topics projected by the organizer this time are the followings:

1. Intellectual Property Strategy of TRIZ Usage and Practice
2. Application of TRIZ for Product Planning
3. Education with TRIZ: For New Perspectives
4. How to use TRIZ in software and IT problem solving
5. TRIZ for Managers

As for the contributed presentations, a wide range of presentations are scheduled this year again from those of various approaches and applied cases at big companies to those at small and medium-sized enterprises and even to those at various educational & research institutes and at group/individual level, and also from technical field centered applications to non-technical ones.

As mentioned above, a multitude of more interesting themes than ever before will be presented in this Sixth Symposium. Today, when the signs of recovery from the unprecedented economic recession are finally starting to appear, it is strongly desired to accurately predict the future and increase the success rate of innovation in order to make a new leap forward, and we have no doubt that this TRIZ Symposium will give you a multitude of useful hints for this purpose.

We look forward to active participations of not only TRIZ practitioners/educators, TRIZ promoters and people who are starting TRIZ but also those engaged in education and/or research for fostering creativeness, those engaged in or interested in intellectual properties or Value Engineering, those interested in the restructuring of development/design processes and those seeking next-generation innovations and new business models. It is not necessary for you to be a member of the NPO Japan TRIZ Society, but those who will take this occasion to become a member are also heartily welcome. We believe that this symposium will help all the participants at various situations in their work and business.

In planning the symposium this time, we have given consideration to low-priced participation fees and availability of color information of the presented slides by essentially converting former monochrome paper-based proceeding of almost 500 pages to USB connected electronic media taking advantage of the venue, which is a university with

a solid network/PC infrastructure. Besides, the program has been organized in principle to get started at 10 a.m. each day so that participants from the Tokyo metropolitan area can make day trips. It is true that the economic environment is still severe, but we are looking forward to seeing as many people as possible at Kanagawa Institute of Technology.