

μm 帯での 32 Mb/s PSK*⁷ および ASK*⁸ ヘテロダイ
ン、偏波ダイバーシティ光受信機などが報告された。

ピコ秒光パルスを用いて超高速光伝送を実現しようと
する動きがある。光ファイバ中の分散性を利用したチャ

*⁷ PSK: phase shift keying; 位相偏移変調

*⁸ ASK: amplitude shift keying; 振幅偏移変調

ープパルスや光ソリトンの分野では、InGaAsP レーザ
ーを用いた 6 km 伝送、パラメトリック相互作用を用い
た 1.2~1.5 μm 波長可変光源が発表された。また、フ
ァイバを活性媒質としたピコ秒パルスの誘導ラマン増幅
では、利得が 19 dB で応答時間が 100 ps であった。

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At The Kobe GRIN IV Conference

Paul O. McLAUGHLIN

Institute of Optics, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York 14627, U. S. A.

Without a doubt, the Fourth Topical Meeting on Gradient-Index Optical Imaging Systems held in Kobe was a tremendous success. The excellence of the scientific and technical papers, the beautiful International Conference Center Kobe, and the large attendance by scientists from many different countries made the meeting a very interesting and exciting place to be. On behalf of the foreign participants and guests, I'd like to thank the General Chairman, Dr. I. Kitano, and all the members of the organizing committee for the hard work and valuable time they spent in preparation for the Fourth GRIN Conference. Their efforts were tremendously successful and were greatly appreciated by all the conference participants.

While the conference officially started Monday morning, for most of us, "the meeting" actually started on the weekend with sightseeing at the many beautiful parks, gardens, temples, shrines, etc., of Tokyo or Kyoto or Nara. (Please don't tell our home companies!) Arriving in Kobe on Sunday, the Portliner ride across the harbor to Port Island was a fantastic experience. The city with the mountains in the background provided a splendid view and a magnificent setting for the GRIN Conference. At the Registration reception, I was surprised and honored to receive an invitation to write this paper. At least 45 people attended the Sunday evening reception and I saw "at least 45 people" enjoying the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Sunday night and the following two days of the conference was a time for exchange of both technical and cultural experiences.

Monday morning the Fourth GRIN Conference opened with warm greetings and welcomes from the General Chairman and from the Deputy Mayor of the City of Kobe. I'm sure that the

more than 165 participants, including more than 35 foreign scientists, felt the genuine warmth of the welcome. The first technical paper was an invited paper on "Optical Waveguide Lenses" presented by Professor S. Tanaka; the first question was asked by Dr. D. T. Moore. The day's 25 regularly scheduled papers plus 2 post-deadline papers offered many more opportunities for questions and discussions among the conference participants. Monday evening at the Conference Buffet Party we had the chance to relax and enjoy good food and good conversation. The lovely wives who attended the party added charm and grace which made for a very pleasant and refreshing evening.

Tuesday morning we were greeted by the rainy season. I think it rained Tuesday morning so the foreign participants would not be disappointed. After hearing so much about the rainy season and seeing so much sunshine, we were beginning to wonder if the rainy season was a myth! Again, the papers presented were excellent and covered a wide range of related topic which generated many ideas for discussion and future research.

Upon leaving Kobe after the conference, I started to think about the next GRIN conference. I hope we can all meet there next year with new ideas and new discoveries to make the Fifth GRIN Conference as successful as this Fourth GRIN Conference has been. Once again, on behalf of the foreign participants and guests, I'd like to thank the organizing committee, the corporate sponsors, and the City of Koke for their warm welcome and generous hospitality during our brief but memorable visit.

By the way, can anyone tell me who asked the last question at the Fourth Topical Meeting of Gradient-Index Optical Imaging Systems?

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