

STRL Opening Commemoration Ceremony

2 0 0 2 S T R L O p e n H o u s e

President's Address

Katsuji EBISAWA, *President, NHK*



I always say: "Broadcasting is a culture that utilizes the latest technology." It is a public broadcaster's responsibility to constructively assimilate the results of technical innovation. NHK has always contributed to the creation of this broadcasting culture, playing a leading role through its studies of cutting-edge technologies.

NHK's Hi-Vision (HDTV) system, which is the core of digital BS broadcasting, has been adopted as an international standard for the HDTV format. Through this system, NHK's level of technical capability has become highly evaluated. Now, I see myself as a "preacher of HDTV," with the determination to diffuse the HDTV system globally. With confidence and pride, it is my hope to popularize and promote HDTV, one of the most significant inventions in the latter part of the 20th century.

At this year's STRL open house, we presented the future of broadcasting technology. Among all the exhibitions, I especially encouraged everyone to personally experience certain outstanding displays, such as the 4,000 scanning line ultrahigh-definition TV that can provide a sensation of reality higher than that of HDTV, and a flexible TV display that can be bent freely. We will also eagerly continue our research and development efforts on "human-friendly broadcasting," which will eliminate information barriers and make information easily available for anybody, at anytime, and anywhere.

I believe that the role of the public broadcaster will increase in importance, especially considering the prevalence of anxieties over the future. One of NHK's solemn missions, in a century in which true peace and dialogue are required, is to provide high-quality programs that are beneficial and enrich our viewers' lives and minds as much as possible. I expect that STRL will continue to lead in such technological endeavors, as it has done in the past.

Congratulatory Address

Yoshihisa NAKAMURA,
*Director-General, Tohoku
University Research Institute of
Electrical Communications*



As an engineer specializing in recording technology, I have a vivid memory of the great amazement I felt over the first successful PCM recording by the Science & Technical Research Laboratories in 1965. It can be said that the history of digitalization began with this advance. It is unnecessary to say that NHK has contributed widely to society in general, not only technically but also culturally.

One of my expectations for the future STRL is that it will pursue research from the standpoint of the viewer, considering how a technology will be used or what kind of benefit it will bring, in addition to considering the researcher's desire to create high-performance hardware. While I am an avid listener to radio broadcasting, the development of radio broadcasting does not seem to be as apparent as that of television. The world of sound cultivates rich imaginations, and there must be many who need radio broadcasting. There are still locations where radio broadcasting does not reach, such as in a Shinkansen super-express train or in mountainous areas. As far as this problem is concerned, I would assume that it is already possible to realize a personal or home server for radio broadcasting system using the current hard disk media. I hope that technical development with the aim of ubiquitous, "anytime, anywhere, and for anybody" broadcasting includes radio services.

I also would like NHK to build a database cataloguing its many beneficial contents, making them accessible from anywhere in the world. To accomplish this, it will be necessary for NHK to resolve certain issues, such as copyright issues, so that it can contribute to the new IT revolution.

It is my sincere hope that NHK will continue developing broadcasting systems through which people can have enriched and comfortable lives.