IBC2007 Held

Dr. Fujio awarded an honorary lifetime membership

The largest broadcasting system exhibition in Europe, IBC2007, took place in Amsterdam from September 6 to 11, 2007.

A special event, "HDTV25," was held during the conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first exhibit of the HDTV system in Europe at the EBU General Assembly in June 1982. Ex STRL Director-General, Dr. Takashi Fujio was awarded an honorary lifetime membership by the EBU Technical Assembly. He also gave the keynote address, which was followed by a lively panel discussion presented by the original organizers of the first HDTV demonstration.

Ultrahigh-speed camera exhibition

At IBC, we presented a lecture on the live SHV relay broadcast of the "Kohaku Utagassen" year-end music program and on the ultrahigh-speed CCD camera. We also exhibited an ultrahigh-speed CCD camera in the New Technology Campus (NTC) section of the event that showcased new technologies.

Other opportunities to promote our research included a presentation on the Super Hi-Vision (SHV) development roadmap at a session dealing with post HDTV technologies and our collaborative approach to research with the EBU and leading European research organizations (BBC, RAI, and IRT).

Super Hi-Vision (SHV): Approved as SMPTE Standard

The Super Hi-Vision (SHV) video format was approved as standard by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE), the organization that establishes technical standards for the film and television industries in the United States.

The SHV system, which consists of wide-view, ultrahigh-definition video using 4,320 scanning lines and a 22.2 multi-channel audio system, is being developed as a future television system by STRL. It delivers a strong sensation of reality, making the viewer feel as if they were at the actual broadcasting site. Advances on SHV have been presented to the public over the past few years, at the STRL open house, in a live relay broadcast experiment during the "Kohaku Utagassen" music program, and in program transmission experiments via communications networks. Last year, the SHV system was displayed at international broadcasting equipment exhibitions (NAB, IBC, etc.) in the United States and Europe, and it attracted keen interest from visitors to these events. The International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R) has already issued a 2006 Recommendation on SHV as a large screen digital imagery (LSDI) format.

Thanks to this progress, we made a proposal and continued discussions at the SMPTE regular meeting in June on adopting a video format relevant to television from the ITU-R recommendation as a standard for ultrahigh definition television (UHDTV).

Although SMPTE is a commercial standardization organization in the United States, the participation of many video equipment manufacturers gives it global influence and it has played a significant role in HDTV standardization. The new SMPTE standard is expected to accelerate international research collaborations and system development on the SHV system.

Its official approval as a standards document is scheduled to be completed following this coming year's public period. SHV research will also progress with the view towards actual implementation. It will involve domestic and global standardization of other aspects, such as expansive video parameters for enhanced performance, the related audio system, and system interfaces, at organizations such as ITU-R, SMPTE, and the Association of Radio Industries and Businesses (ARIB).