

Japan

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japan Fine Ceramics Association

On 10 November 2016, the ceremony marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan Fine Ceramics Association (JFCA) was held at the TKP Garden City Shinagawa in Tokyo. Nearly 500 guests attended a lecture session and the banquet.

Following the opening remarks of the JFCA President, Masashi Muromachi, the Executive Director of JFCA, Bambang Yano Tomosaburo, reviewed the 30 Years of JFCA History.

Since its founding in November 1986, the Japan Fine Ceramics Association (JFCA) has acted as an organization with the mission to promote the development of the fine ceramics/technical ceramics industry. Its predecessor organisation, the Fine Ceramics Association had been founded back in 1982. Today, 80 company members are active in the JFCA. The JFCA plays an important role in international standardisation as secretary of ISO/TC150/SC7 and ISO/TC206. Since its founding in 1986, the Japanese fine ceramics industry has made excellent progress, the annual turnover rising from YEN 887 900 million to YEN 2 451 000 million by 2015, which was posted as the best result in the industry's history. The sharp decline in 2009 to YEN 1 578 900 million has now been made up completely and the forecasts expect an yearly average growth of 6 %.

In the period after 2005, Japan faced a certain isolation and the number of students in the sector also decreased, while in countries like India, China and Taiwan the sector thrived. The promotion of international cooperation is now an important target to ensure active exchange with the ceramics industries overseas. Attending international symposiums is a key point on the agenda now.

Prof. Masaki Azuma (Tokyo Institute of Technology) presented the findings of the project Roadmap 2050. In total, 44 companies were interviewed (24 in Japan, 16 in USA and 4 in Europe). Mobility is an important key for growth of the sector as well as consumer electronics and energy, also with regard to environmental aspects.

Tsuneo Murata (President, Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.) presented "Murata: Its Path and Strategies of Growth". He outlined Murata's success story from 1944 when it was founded in Kyoto to the present day, and its global network with nearly 55 000 employees. With the increased number of components per high-end smartphone, the demand for Murata's components and modules will continue to grow in the communications segment. At the same time, other pillars (automotive, energy and healthcare markets) show good potential for ceramic-

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**Fig. 1** Karin Scharrer (l.), Editor-in-Chief Göller Verlag/DE, handing over a present to JFCA President Masashi Muromachi



**Fig. 2** Auditorium

based passive electronic components and solutions.

Finally, Shuji Nakamura (Nobel Laureate in Physics, CREE Professor, University of California/US) presented the "Stories Behind the Invention of Efficient Blue InGaN LED". The Chairman of the Nobel Prize Committee highlighted the huge practical level of high-efficiency blue light produced by

Light-Emitting Diodes (LED) as the energy-saving potential is tremendous. But studies in 2010 which stated that blue LED light may disrupt the circadian cycle or suppress melatonin threw everything into question as health disorders including cancer may be a risk. A new generation, white LEDs, had to be developed by combining e.g. blue and yellow light. With this solution now avail-

able for the global markets, research is focusing on laser diodes as the light of the future.

The banquet was opened by JFCA President Masashi Muromachi and greetings extended by a representative of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. One highlight was certainly the Kagaminuki – the opening of a sake barrel by honoured members.

## Your contact person



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