

International Cooperation

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The recent NAE publication titled "Strengthening U.S. Engineering Through International Cooperation" details how U.S. participation in centers of excellence and technological activity worldwide might contribute to strengthening U.S. capabilities. While the report is aimed at engineering activities, the role assigned to professional societies for furthering cooperation should be examined by all professional societies, scientific and engineering alike.

The report recognizes the leadership role of professional societies in the gathering, processing, and dissemination of technical information. The recommendations aimed at professional societies ask them to examine the effectiveness of these activities as well as evaluate their international activities. These recommendations are the following:

1. Professional engineering societies should develop trend indicators and make periodic evaluations of their international activities.

2. Professional societies should take the lead in a national assessment of the availability of information from technical publications to the U.S. engineering and technology community, and of mechanisms for improving the assimilation of such information.

3. U.S.-based engineering societies should continue to develop their international activities for the benefit of the United States and international engineering and technology enterprise.

The Materials Research Society furthers international cooperation through its technical meetings, its affiliation and cooperation with materials societies emerging around the world, MRS publication of conference proceedings, *Journal of Materials Research*, and the MRS BULLETIN. Currently 20% of MRS members are from out-



side the United States. International participation at MRS meetings is high. One quarter of the papers presented at the last two MRS meetings were from outside the United States. At these meetings many invited speakers from abroad reviewed their research. Individual symposia held at MRS meetings have gone international. The nuclear waste symposium is now held every third year in Europe. The symposium on sensors first held at an MRS meeting has led to the organization of an international gathering that has since held meetings around the world.

The Materials Research Society has established a close cooperation with E-MRS, the European Materials Research Society. E-MRS sponsors yearly technical meetings in Europe. Members of E-MRS receive copies of the MRS BULLETIN. MRS is actively promoting MRS-type meetings and MRS-type research societies worldwide. Discussions have been held with representatives from Taiwan, Mexico, Argentina, China, and India. The first meeting of the newly formed International

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Materials Research Committee met during the E-MRS meeting in June 1987. The common bond for these groups is an interest in promoting interdisciplinary meetings.

During 1988 the Materials Research Society will sponsor its first meetings in Japan. The MRS International Meeting on Advanced Materials will be held in Tokyo, May 30-June 3, 1988. In addition, MRS will cosponsor with the Japan Society of Applied Physics the JSAP-MRS International Conference on Electronic Materials, to be held in Tokyo, June 13-15, 1988. Simultaneously, MRS will cosponsor the 6th International Conference on Ion Beam Modification of Materials, also in Tokyo, June 12-17, 1988. This grouping of meetings was planned to facilitate participation of scientists from abroad.

The benefit to MRS members of these international activities is greater knowledge and understanding of progress in materials research. The quantity of high quality, significant research results from abroad that one must be knowledgeable of to be current is increasing. Participation in international scientific activities such as MRS meetings held inside and outside the United States is the best way to gain familiarity with worldwide scientific accomplishments.



1988 Spring Japan Conference Calendar

May 30-June 3	MRS International Meeting on Advanced Materials Tokyo
June 7-10	Seventh International Conference on Ion Implantation Technology Kyoto
June 12-17	Sixth International Conference on Ion Beam Modification of Materials (IBMM'88) Tokyo
June 12-15	JSAP-MRS International Conference on Electronic Materials (ICEM'88) Tokyo

For details, see p. 86 and the Calendar in this issue.