

Preface

THE INCREASING DEMAND for gas and the expansion of the Asian economies will lead to a number of major oil and (primarily) gas pipeline projects over the next ten years. The pipelines to be built will have to cross environmentally-sensitive regions and very hostile terrains. More specifically, the development of such pipelines will require the implementation of design criteria and construction practices which will differ from the conventional approach. These are, therefore, exciting times for the pipeline industry world-wide.

The construction and the safe operation of offshore and onshore pipelines in very-cold and seismically-active regions, such as are readily found in the Pacific Rim, provide formidable design challenges. Economic viability increasingly requires the use of high-strength pipeline steels, and pipeline steels of API 5L Grade X80 and above are attractive from this viewpoint (and grades up to X120 are already being looked at, as which can be seen from papers in these *Proceedings*). Up-to-date design practices, material-selection criteria, and installation techniques, are needed to build safe, high-strength steel pipelines in this region, and in similar parts of the world.

This new international Conference aims to promote the direct exchange of the latest scientific and technological information related to the application of high-grade pipelines, and will also provide a good opportunity to discuss the future strategies of research and development in pipeline technology.

There are 63 papers in the Conference, organized into five sessions, as can be seen from the contents of the *Proceedings* (page xi). We are delighted that the organizing committee has received such a wide range of state-of-the-art reviews of the latest developments in the international pipeline industry, the impact of which will guide the industry over the next decade. The programme includes papers from many of the most-respected leaders in their fields, and covers all aspects from design and materials' selection to construction and subsequent operational aspects such as corrosion prevention and cathodic protection. We are most grateful to the authors, co-authors, and presenters of these papers for their time and willingness

to be involved in this event: while participation in a conference such as this can often be seen as mutually beneficial to the author and to the delegate, there is no question that these *Proceedings* represent a tremendous amount of work on behalf of those who have written the papers, and it is important that this be warmly acknowledged.

As co-organizers we have been privileged to receive the unstinting support of our colleagues in our own organizations, plus that of the organizing committee and the supporting organizations in Japan (listed on pages vii-viii). It would have been impossible to put such an important event together without this help, for which both of us are grateful. We should also like to acknowledge here the contribution made to the successful running of the event by the team at the conference venue in Yokohama, and that of many others, in the background, associated with the details of running the event.

Finally, we hope that you, the delegate, will find the event worthwhile and of interest. The importance of the event is not so much the event itself, as the impact it has on the industry afterwards, and on you – the reader – our hopes of success therefore rest. We look forward to hearing from you if there are any comments you have about the event or the programme, and we would like specially to thank you for joining us in Yokohama.

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