

## Science and Technology Festa in Kyoto 2011 (December 17-18, 2011)

For two days from December 17 to December 18, 2011, "Science and Technology Festa in Kyoto 2011" was held at Kyoto International Conference Center.

The Science and Technology Festa aims at giving opportunities of presenting and exhibiting various outcomes of Japan's cutting-edge science and technology to the public so that they will become more friendly with science and technology through direct conversation with scientists or persons involved in science and technology. It is also intended to stimulate young people to find an interest or curiosity in science and technology. In the main hall, a wide variety of programs including talks by Nobel laureates and astronaut, science shows and panel discussions were presented. In the event hall, WPI centers, research institutions, universities and private companies opened booths and presented their research activities and achievement to the people in a way that was easy to understand.

Following last year's Festa, WPI centers ran a joint booth in cooperation among all the centers. As far as AIMR concerned, we manned a booth that introduced our institute profile and activities displaying posters and videos, and provided an area where visitors could try experiments. After enjoying the experiments with polarizing plates that identify the difference between crystals and glasses, visitors listened to explanations on the structure of metallic glasses and composites to familiarize themselves with the "Science" of Materials. More than 600 people enjoyed the AIMR booth and had a chance to look closely at real metallic glasses.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy Motohisa Furukawa and Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Masaharu Nakagawa visited the event hall. They came over to the AIMR booth and gave many questions ranged from general to technical topics to the staff.

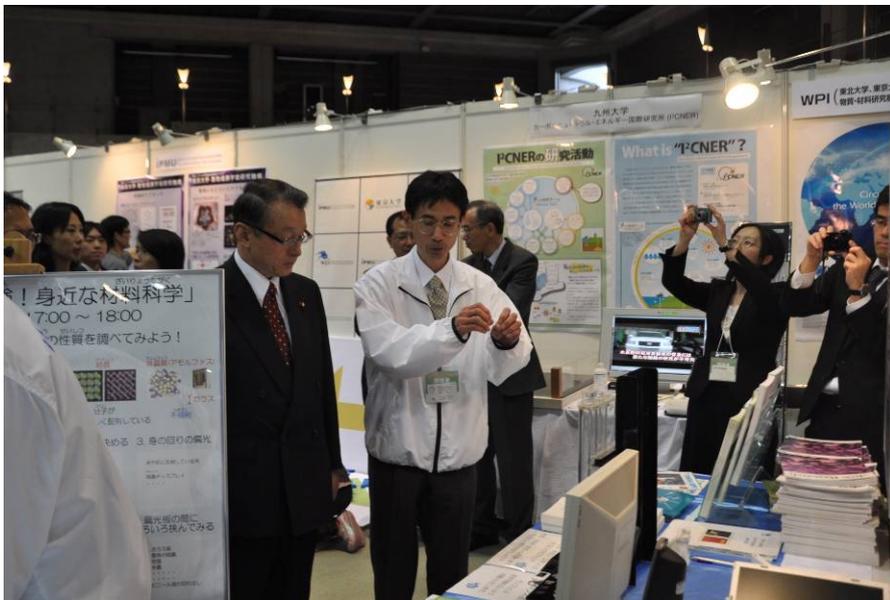
Throughout the two-day period, the Festa had over 5,000 participants and ended with a great deal of success.



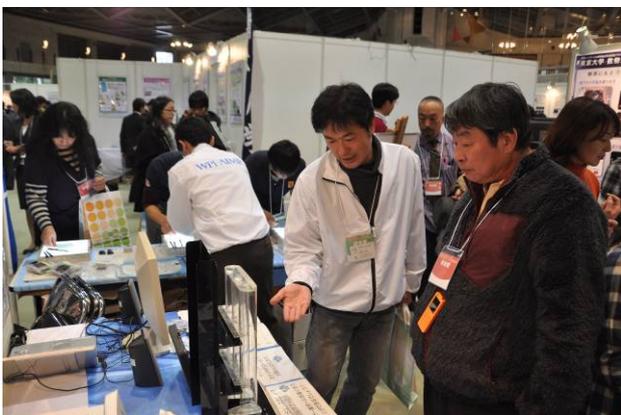
Exhibition booths of WPI centers



AIMR booth



MEXT Minister M. Nakagawa visited the AIMR Booth



Visitors listening to explanation by the AIMR staff