



6th German-Japanese | 6th International
Symposium on Nanostructures

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Kusatsu/Kyoto, Japan*



address by

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In the competitive world of innovation, Nanotechnologies have taken a pole position.

This is mainly due to new discoveries in the synthesis, assembly and processing of nanostructured materials.

Nanostructured materials and their importance in the development of applications from informatics to energy, transport, health etc. marks a turning point in the commercialisation of Nanotechnologies.

In the EU, as in the rest of the world, it took ten years of intense investment in purpose-built and application focused manufacturing research of nanostructured materials to demonstrate economic returns. Many nanostructured proof-of-concept devices and systems have demonstrated their value added in the market place and started the creation of what is called “nanotech industry”. Nevertheless, the race has just started.

In the next seven years, the issue of Nano-manufacturing will play central role in reinforcing the dominant role of nanotechnologies in the EU economy. In addition to precise control of shape, structure and composition, synthesis research would endeavour to link-up with engineering research in scale-up and advance processing of nanostructured materials.

The demonstration of production processes based-on inherently scalable and controllable phenomena, such as directed assembly, will render manufacturing sustainable and broaden the applicability of nanomaterials.

Integrating with them, new advanced control and automation with optimised manufacturing systems, future advancements would bring a new age of sustainable manufacturing.

It's the sustainability credentials of nanomaterials synthesis, processing and their manufacturing into highly performing, high added-value products that not only will gain new markets but it would also broaden the societal appeal of nanotechnologies.

In the EU, it's this dynamic relationship between society and innovative products and services due to nanotechnologies that would be the focus of research and innovation activities.

Such an effort stands to gain a lot by fostering collaboration with other international communities working along similar objectives.

This is in line with the EU strategy in international co-operation in research and innovation at EU level that seeks to support targeted activities with scale and scope to achieve impact.

The multiplicity of perspectives that such co-operations open up in terms of economic and social benefits are enormous.

The German-Japan collaboration on nanotechnologies, as exemplified by the series of symposia on nanostructures, serves as a concrete example of mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge, experience and industrial co-operation.

I wish you every success, good ideas and great response for the up-coming 6th symposium which this time, is planned to take place in 2013 in Kyoto, Japan.

sgd.

Christos Tokamanis