

Closing address

Chair of OC, ICNTRM2026

It has been a productive and rewarding week since we began on Monday, and today, Saturday, we have successfully completed the entire program of this international conference. With 39 poster presentations, 39 plus one oral presentations, and seven invited lectures, these contributions formed the core of our conference. This success is entirely thanks to you, and I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your cooperation.

Following the conclusion of the conference, our next goal is to finalize the proceedings. With that, I believe this closing address marks my final duty as the President of INTS.

Regarding CR-39, a British manufacturer's presentation showed that it is 'on track' rather than 'fading.' As this service continues in Japan, I wonder if this will open up opportunities to clarify track structures and formation mechanisms in PADC. My dream is to develop highly sensitive polymers that can record muons, just like nuclear emulsions.

At the same time, space radiation research is becoming highly practical, especially with the rise of space exploration like the Artemis program.

We also saw rapid progress in luminescence materials, thanks to an excellent invited lecture and many presentations.

China's latest research on ion tracks was also introduced through an invited talk and two oral presentations. This impressive progress is the exact reason why we decided to hold the next conference in China.

We also saw steady progress in neutron measurements.

Then, for the intense laser driven particle acceleration, experiments using CR-39 reported unprecedented results exceeding 100 MeV—a true world record—with the next target already set at the GeV class.

From the chemical side, a French research institute gave an invited lecture focusing on how temperature affects ion tracks.

There were also many technical reports on decontamination after the Fukushima nuclear accident of TEPCO in 2011.

We also saw recent cellular research using microbeams, as well as studies on hadron cancer therapy.

In addition, presenters highlighted the big steps taken over the last 20 years in

the field of natural radioactivity, including radon and thoron.

Simulation techniques have also come a long way recently. This progress will likely move beyond physics and start including chemical processes as well.

Although this conference started with nuclear emulsion, many presentations showed that we are still making great progress today, thanks to the independent growth of readout technology.

We look forward to receiving your submissions for the proceedings.

Before I close, please allow me to share a few personal memories. My journey with this conference series began back in 1996, at the 18th conference in Cairo, Egypt. At the time, I was simply too consumed with delivering my own presentation to notice anything else. It was during the 1998 conference in Besançon that I met the friends who would become my lifelong research collaborators. I met with Prof. M. F. and Prof. R. B. I remember Prof. M. F., who is just a few months younger than me, working tirelessly as the conference secretary. Watching him inspired a dream within me: to one day organize an international conference of my own. Today, in this very room, that dream has come true. Back then, Prof. M. F. was supervising several PhD students alongside Prof. A. C. I, too, harbored a dream of guiding the next generation of researchers, and though my student count may not have been large, I am proud to have realized that dream as well. Discovering how university professors of my own generation were working in France at that time was an invaluable experience that truly shaped my career.

Throughout my career, I have gone through periods where I struggled to get papers published, and I have certainly had to contend with my share of budget constraints. Yet, through it all, the international research network I built at this very conference has always been my greatest source of support.

As several colleagues have already noted, our conference is not particularly large. But that is precisely our strength. It creates an intimate environment where we can truly get to know one another and build deep collaborations.

A wonderful example of this is the 'cotutelle' scheme. Although I have only been involved once, thanks to Prof. A. N. and his initiative and leadership, we successfully established a joint doctoral program between the University of Strasbourg and Kobe University. This allowed both institutions to jointly supervise and award a degree to our student Dr. T. K., Prof. R. B. was the supervisor on the Strasbourg side. The many people I have encountered through this conference have become lifelong treasures that I will cherish forever.

While this event is drawing to a close, our journey is by no means over. I urge all of you to build upon the connections made here and embark on new collaborative research. Let us share our future breakthroughs and meet again with renewed passion next time in China!

Thank you very much for your contributions to ICNTRM2026.

T. Y., Kobe University
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