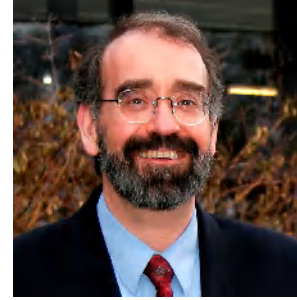


Closing remarks

Dear participants

The 10th International IEA Heat Pump conference 2011 in Tokyo Japan is closing soon. We had the pleasure of following a very interesting conference in an innovative website format. This was something of an experiment. Yet we all know that the organizing committees IOC and NOC Japan were forced to choose this solution because of the tragic consequences from the tsunami of March 11.



The honorable effort of NOC Japan resulted in very professional and excellent Conference Proceedings and a widely visited web conference. 192 papers, 14 keynote presentations, 7 address speeches and 6 reports on ongoing annexes were presented. From the opening of the website conference until 16th of August, 377 participants visited the website 1454 times and studied 16'268 pages. Therefore, I think that also this 10th International Heat Pump Conference in Tokyo was a great success. Naturally, I would have preferred to close the conference being physically present at the initially planned Venue 'Chinzan-so' in Tokyo and saying 'Good bye' to all of you. But unfortunately this was not possible this time. I do hope that we can meet each other in one of the next IEA Heat Pump Conferences, as the planning for the next conference in this series will be soon under way.

Of course, we could also think of increasing the organization of web-conferences. This is definitely a very environment-friendly way of exchanging information. There are no CO2 emissions by travel and no expenses for accommodation and food. However, and this is the sad aspect, neither are there any meetings, any personal discussions, any interesting excursions and lovely conference dinners. We will have to weigh up both sides of the argument, but when I think back to all my impressions from different conferences, I honestly think that meeting and discussing together is more fascinating!

I would like to finish my closing remarks with a great thank you to all individuals and bodies who contributed to this conference with their tremendous work. First I wish to present my deepest thanks to the National Organizing Committee of Japan with its chairman Momoki Katakura for the logistical preparation under these difficult conditions. I would also like to thank all partner organizations and sponsors as well as the international Country Sponsors of the IEA Heat Pump Programme. Next, I extend my thanks to the International Organizing Committee which was responsible for the conference programme. And finally, I know that when I start to mention individuals, I am taking the risk of forgetting somebody, but I would like to give special thanks to the Regional Coordinators Jerry Groff, Monica Axell and Makoto Tono, to Sophie Hosatte, chair of the IEA Heat Pump Programme, to all members of IOC and to the secretary of NOC, Mrs Akiko Hattori, for the perfect exchange of hundreds of emails and information. Last but not least, I wish to thank all of you for your participation in this conference and I hope to see you soon at the next IEA Heat Pump Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Kopp

IOC Chair

Switzerland