

§2. Collection of Historical Materials on Fusion Research in Japan by Oral History Method

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1. The purpose of oral history in Fusion Science Archives

Fusion Science Archives (FSA) at NIFS was established in 2005. Since then historical materials on fusion research and/or organizations related to fusion research have been collected and preserved at FSA. They are expected to serve as the evidence of various facts or actions taken by fusion research community in the past. These written documents, however, are not enough for future generation to understand the detailed facts of the historical matters or events. In some cases it is very difficult to understand the relation between the events or background of events due to a lack of necessary documents. In these cases oral histories through interviews with fusion researchers who played important roles in the past may supply us useful information.

2. Procedure of interview

Generally, the interview is carried out through the following procedures:

(1) Select the theme of interview and appropriate interviewee, (2) set-up the questionnaire for interviewee based on documents survey, (3) interview (by an interviewer or in sometimes, by plural interviewers), (4) editorial works on interview records (the first step is proceed by interviewers and in the second step together with interviewee), (5) register the record of interview as a historical document in FSA, (6) analyze the record of the interview, (7) present the report of the interview and its analysis at the scientific conferences such as the annual meeting of The Japan Society of Plasma Science and Nuclear Fusion, and the Physical Society of Japan.

3. Accomplishments in 2014

In 2014 fiscal year, the editorial works on the record of interview with Yoshihiko Ichikawa, Professor Emeritus of Nagoya Univ. and NIFS, which was held on September 28 and on November 27, 2012 was completed and the report was published. On the occasion of the interview with Y. Ichikawa, the details of a Japan-U.S. seminar in 1968 were revealed and some relevant documents were newly collected. This seminar was held under the title of “Japan-U.S. Seminar on Waves, Instabilities and Nonlinear Effects in Plasma,” on April 22-26, 1968, in Kyoto. This was presented under the title of “A Study of the First US-Japan Plasma Seminar Based on Information from the Oral History of Yoshihiko Ichikawa” at The Joint

Conference on Fusion Energy held on June 19 - 20, 2014, at International Congress Center in Tsukuba. (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1 Poster presentation at The Joint Conference on Fusion Energy

Editorial works on a record of interview with Dr. Masaji Yoshikawa, former President of Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI, at present Japan Atomic Energy Agency, JAEA), was completed and the record will be published soon. This Interview was held on October 31, 2013 at Tokyo Office of JAEA (Fig.2).



Fig. 2 Interview with Dr. M. Yoshikawa

An interview with Hiromu Momota, Professor Emeritus of Nagoya Univ. and NIFS was newly planned and took place on February 17, 2015 at NIFS (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3 Prof. H. Momota on the interview

Prof. H. Momota played leading role in planning of so-called R-project of Institute of Plasma Physics, Nagoya University. This project was only designed and never executed as a real experiment. The interview was focused on the reason why the project was not executed.

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