

Editor's Preface

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I am very honored to be the Editor-in-Chief of “KONA Powder and Particle Journal” starting June 2022 as the successor of Emeritus Professor, Kikuo Okuyama. It is my great pleasure to publish the latest issue of the Journal No. 40 (2023). I have been working on the research and development of powder characterization, powder processing, and their applications for advanced materials for over 40 years, because powder technology is very attractive field for my research works. As you know, “powder”, an assemblage of small solid particles, exhibits very unique behavior. For example, depending on the circumstances, a powder can behave like a gas, a liquid, or a solid. Also, because of its larger specific surface area and smaller volume relative to a bulk material, powder can have very unique properties. This is especially true for “nanoparticles”, which offer a wide range of industrial applications ubiquitous in our daily life and create promising materials for scientific and technical innovations in the future. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) is a set of international development goals from 2016 to 2030, which was adopted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held in September 2015 building on the success of Millennium Goals (MDGs). The 2030 Agenda listed “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets in order to eradicate poverty and realize a sustainable world. Powder technology is the key to achieve these goals for a sustainable society worldwide.

To contribute to the advancement of powder technology on a global scale, Mr. Masuo Hosokawa, the second President of Hosokawa Micron Corporation published the first issue of “KONA Powder and Particle Journal” in 1983. Then, he founded Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation in 1991, and shifted the management issues of the KONA Journal to it. Besides, Mr. M. Hosokawa proposed the concept of “nanoparticle technology” long before the United State President Bill Clinton’s National Nanotechnology Initiative in 2000. As a chief editor, Mr. M. Hosokawa decided to inaugurate the Nanoparticle Technology Handbook to advance the development of powder technology. Subsequently, the Foundation published the Nanoparticle Technology Handbook in Japanese in 2006, which was translated into English and published as the first edition of the Nanoparticle Technology Handbook in 2007 by Elsevier. Since then, nanoparticle technology has rapidly advanced, and been applied broadly and in many new applications. Therefore, the Handbook was updated twice in 2012 and 2018, respectively, after Mr. M. Hosokawa passed away in 2010. Then, the third edition was organized by four editors, including myself (The chief editor), and Dr. Kohei Hosokawa (the President of Hosokawa Micron Corporation), contributing to the success of the publication.

The KONA Journal has evolved for over 40 years. In 1990, three Editorial Boards (Asian/Oceania, Europe/Africa and America) were established to manage the Journal worldwide. After the involvement of the Foundation management, the KONA Journal was registered in Web of Science in 2009. Furthermore, it was registered and published on J-STAGE in 2013. Besides, Advanced Publication started in 2014. DOAJ was registered in 2019. J-STAGE Data was registered in 2021. Today, “KONA Powder and Particle Journal” is a peer-reviewed, international open access journal. It is published on-line annually on the homepage of Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation.

With the great effort of all Editorial Board Members, the impact factor of the Journal in 2021 has reached 3.919 showing the KONA Journal is highly evaluated as an international, academic journal. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all Board Members for their contributions to the success of the KONA Journal publication. Aiming at higher quality journal in the future, I would like to emphasize the following issues for the Journal:

Firstly, the KONA Journal should keep aiming to publish mainly review articles on powder science and technology. As former Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Kikuo Okuyama mentioned at the preface of No. 37 (2020), review articles are especially important to fulfill demands from researchers and engineers who are looking for reliable sources which summarize all the rapidly advancing research to understand the recent research trends, latest information, and future tasks in the special subjects. Recent technology has rapidly advanced in the diverse areas including information technology and materials informatics. Powder technology is also rapidly developing by interacting with the new technologies. Such cutting-edge review articles will give readers the newest information through the KONA Journal.

Secondly, the KONA Journal should continue fostering development of powder science and technology and promoting the synergetic interactions with diverse science and technology communities. Research related to powder and particles has widely spread from advanced materials including ceramics, polymers, metals and composites, medical devices and pharmaceuticals to information technology. Research area for sustainable society is also very important. The KONA Journal should bridge the gaps between powder technology and diverse technology communities, to become more attractive journal for readers from various disciplines.

Thirdly, the continuous financial and human support from Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation is critical to achieve higher quality of the KONA Journal. The 54th Symposium on Powder Technology was held on September 5, 2022 at the Imperial Hotel Osaka, in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary event of the Foundation. At the opening address, Mr. Yoshio Hosokawa, the President of the Foundation and the Chairman of Hosokawa Micron Corporation, introduced the history of the Foundation, and emphasized that the KONA Journal is now a highly evaluated academic international journal, contributing to the development of powder science and technology in the world. As the new Editor-in-Chief, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the great support of the Foundation.

At last but not the least, taking use of this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to all paper reviewers shown here for the successful publication of the “KONA Powder and Particle Journal” (No. 40), and my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the publication of the journal.

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October, 2022