

Editor's Preface

Makio Naito, Editor-in-Chief

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I feel deeply honored to have been involved with the KONA Journal (originally, “*KONA Powder Science and Technology in Japan*”) from its inaugural publication in 1983, through this issue No. 43, in 2026. In April 1982, just after earning my Master Course degree from Prof. Genji Jimbo, Nagoya University, Japan, I joined the Hosokawa Micromeritics Laboratory, a subsidiary of Hosokawa Micron Corporation (HMC). At that time, there was no international journal on powder technology published in Japan. At a morning meeting in autumn of 1982, Laboratory Director, Dr. Tohei Yokoyama introduced the vision of publishing an international, English-language technical journal on powder technology in Japan. A main objective of the journal, funded by the President of HMC, Mr. Masuo Hosokawa, was to publish some of the excellent Japanese original research papers, translated into English, for the benefit of a worldwide audience.

Powder technology evolved rapidly and expanded globally in the 1980's. “The First World Congress on Powder Technology”, was held in Nuremberg, Germany in 1986. Simultaneously, HMC was pursuing and promoting global business in Asia, the United States, and Europe. This prompted the KONA Journal to take on another major objective: to promote and enable international collaborations and global business opportunities in powder technology. To this end, in 1990, the KONA editorial board was reorganized as a tri-regional structure encompassing Asia, the United States, and Europe. Each region appointed a chairperson and several editors, with the Asian board led by an Editor-in-Chief overseeing the Journal publication. Additionally, the Journal's name was updated to “*KONA Powder and Particle*”, and paper submissions were expanded beyond Japan to authors from all over the world.

In 1991, Mr. Masuo Hosokawa founded the Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation and shifted the management of the KONA Journal to the Foundation. Mr. M. Hosokawa had also introduced the vision of “nanoparticle technology” well before the United States President Bill Clinton's National Nanotechnology Initiative in 2000. As a chief editor, Mr. M. Hosokawa also had the vision for a Nanoparticle Technology Handbook for the advancement and development of powder technology. The Foundation published the Nanoparticle Technology Handbook in Japanese in 2006. It was subsequently translated into English and published by Elsevier in 2007 as the first edition of the Nanoparticle Technology Handbook. Since then, nanoparticle technology has advanced rapidly, and has been applied broadly, and in many new applications. After Mr. M. Hosokawa passed away in 2010, then the Handbook has been updated twice, in 2012 and 2018. The third edition was organized by four editors, including myself (the Chief Editor) and Dr. Kohei Hosokawa (the President of HMC), all contributing to the success of this publication.

The KONA Journal has published a total of 807 research and review papers. In issues No. 1–26 from 1983 through 2008, the Journal published 162 English-translated papers from Japanese authors. Since 2009, original research papers and review papers submitted from international authors worldwide have been published without translation. The KONA Journal was indexed in Thompson's Web of Science (now Web of Science, Clarivate) in 2009 and received its first Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of 0.268. This metric, reflecting citation frequency, steadily increased, reaching approximately 4 by 2022.

Since the inception of Mr. M. Hosokawa's "nanoparticle technology" vision, the field of powder technology has expanded considerably. It has advanced beyond fundamental research and practical issues in powder technology, to cutting-edge nanoparticle technology, AI applications, and emerging powder technology for a sustainable society. This growth in scope naturally led to an increase in global paper submissions to the KONA Journal. To maximize the impact of the limited number of papers that can be published, the KONA Journal adopted a new philosophy of preferentially publishing selected review papers authored by excellent researchers, based on the recommendations from the Asian/Oceanian, American, and European/African editorial boards.

Enabled by the Foundation management, the KONA Journal was registered and published on J-STAGE in 2013. Advanced Publication started in 2014. DOAJ was registered in 2019, and J-STAGE Data was registered in 2021. Today, "*KONA Powder and Particle Journal*" is a peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary, Diamond Open Access journal with no publication fees for authors or readers. It is published online annually on the homepage of the Hosokawa Powder Technology Foundation.

In 2020, when the Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary, discussions led by Mr. Yoshio Hosokawa, the second President of the Foundation, were initiated on the next phase and long-term plans for sustainable development. For KONA Journal issue, thanks to the great efforts of all editorial board members, the authors, and the reviewers, the KONA Journal is now a highly-regarded, international academic journal. It has been widely successful in achieving its original objectives of being a global resource and inspiration for powder technology. Today, there are many international journals on powder technology, and much greater opportunity for Japanese researchers and researchers worldwide to publish their excellent research for the benefit of a worldwide audience. Recognizing this, the Foundation concluded that the KONA Journal has completed its mission to be a global resource and inspiration for powder technology, which has included establishing a strong and enduring international network in powder technology. As a result, it has been decided that the KONA Journal will conclude with its final issue, No. 43 (2026).

As Editor-in-Chief, I express my sincere appreciation to all of the Board Members for their contributions to the success of the KONA Journal. Additionally, I express my sincere appreciation to the Foundation for its great efforts and support. The continuous financial and personnel support from the Foundation has been critical to achieving a high-quality and impactful KONA Journal. I especially express my great appreciation to Mr. Masuo Hosokawa for providing the inspiration for the KONA Journal, and for his outstanding support for the Journal through the Foundation.

Finally, by taking use of this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to all paper reviewers shown here for the successful publication of this final issue of "*KONA Powder and Particle Journal*" (No. 43), and my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the publication of the journal.

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