

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROF. LAWRENCE WONG,
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GRID OFFICE
@ AIST-NGO MOU SIGNING & SEMINAR
ON FRIDAY, 14 MAY 2004, AT THE
I2R The Big One**

Satoshi Sekiguchi, Director of Grid Technology Research Center @ AIST

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen in Japan & Singapore

Introduction

A very good afternoon to you all. It is my pleasure to bid you all a very warm welcome to this afternoon's event.

A Milestone in Collaboration

The backdrop design comprising the orchid and the sakura, the national flowers of Singapore and Japan respectively, provides a most appropriate setting. It signifies the desire of the two nations to collaborate in Grid computing.

Today, we will witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Grid Office (NGO) of Singapore and the Grid Technology Research Center at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST) of Japan.

Access Grid

The use of an access grid for the MOU signing ceremony and the seminar presentations is no accident. It provides ample evidence of our confidence in Grid computing technology. In another industry, it is referred to as "eating one's dog food."

The MOU will provide a framework for cooperation. It is expected to include the following:

- Joint research projects;
- Conferences, workshops, seminars and other activities, such as the exchange of Grid researchers between the two parties;
- Joint multilateral projects with academia and industries; and

- Bilateral annual review on the progress and development of high performance computing within each party.

The specific areas for collaboration include but are not limited to the following:

- Development of grid technologies such as middleware tools, providing computing resources for science and engineering applications.
- Application of emerging computer technologies in Grid computing to models in science and engineering applications.
- International technology transfer program in Grid computing, parallel and distributed programming including workshops, courses and international exchange of staff.

Conclusion

In closing, I hope that the MOU signing will mark the dawn of a new era in research collaboration between Singapore and Japan.

I look forward to many more such sessions via the Access Grid and face-to-face. By organizing joint workshops and seminars, perhaps taking turns to host them in alternate years, researchers from the two countries will have a forum to explore areas of common interests and tackle grand challenge problems that exceed the scope of a small group of researchers.

Allow me to wish you all a fruitful time in the presentations that follow later. Thank you.

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