

International Manganese Institute Conference  
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## Welcome Speech

Keigo Takahashi, Chairman  
Japan Ferroalloy Association

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. I am Keigo Takahashi from the Japan Ferroalloy Association. On behalf of the Japan Ferroalloy Association and Japanese members of the IMnI, I would like to give a few words to all IMnI members, guest speakers, and invited guests gathered here today.

It is a great pleasure for us to hold this IMnI 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference here in Tokyo. We extend a warm welcome to all participants.

At the last Annual Conference, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, I delivered a speech entitled “Japan & Asia: An Overview of Mn production & Future Trends”, emphasizing that sound competition among competitive producers, seeking greater efficiency and solid, stronger competitiveness, is essential in order to further develop the ferroalloy industry.

My thoughts in this regard have not changed. On the contrary, I have come to feel the need to do so even more keenly since then.

World crude steel production is continuing to expand due to strong demand, especially in China, and is expected to exceed 1 billion tons in 2004.

In accordance with this growth of world crude steel production, the demand for manganese ore and manganese ferroalloy has also been steadily expanding.

I think each company of the world manganese industry needs to act in a responsible manner to supply material to match the current surge of demand and to try to maintain stable supply and trade well into the future.

Confucius, a great Chinese philosopher and educator who lived in the period Before Christ said, "At thirty I stood firm; at forty I had no more doubts; at fifty I knew the mandate of heaven". This quote describes the ideal process of human growth.

It is just 30 years since the IMnI was established, which is a significant milestone for us. We would like to try our best to develop further as an association which can cope with and contribute to the needs of the world.

We think that many of the participants in this conference will be visiting Japan for the first time. We, therefore, have organized a program that will put you into contact with traditional Japanese culture and give you a taste of Japanese history.

It is our wish that this conference be a fruitful one and deepen mutual understanding and trust among the people involved in this field.

We do hope your stay in Japan will be an enjoyable experience and that when you leave it will be with many pleasant memories.

Thank you for your kind attention.