

Foreword

Dear Colleagues;

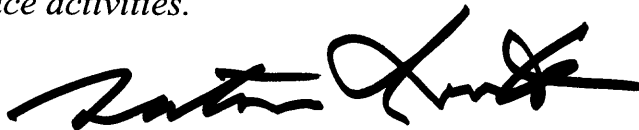
*I welcome all of you to the seventh International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Automation in Space: **i-SAIRAS 2003**.*

*In 1990, the first **i-SAIRAS** was held in Kobe Japan. Since then, it was held in Europe, America or back to Asia every two years. It became third times that **i-SAIRAS** was held in Japan.*

*The objective of **i-SAIRAS** is to provide an international forum for engineers, researchers, and managers to discuss the development and application of artificial intelligence and robotics to space programs. We received roughly one hundred exceptional papers from researchers and space technology leaders from all over the world. We hope that you will enjoy the symposium and find a trigger to promote your research and/or project.*

The world situation changes very quickly. I am pleased to announce that the three Japanese space agencies, NASDA, NAL and ISAS, will be one organization on the coming October, 2003.

I am deeply grateful to the international and the local committee members for their effort to realize this symposium. Moreover, I would like to express the deepest thanks to all the supporting space agencies. I heartily hope that this symposium provides an opportunity to create a new history in space activities.



Tsutomu Iwata

Symposium Chairperson