

## Preface

With a history of more than 89 years, the Institute for Materials Research (IMR) is committed to both basic and applied research and education in the field of metals and related materials. IMR has contributed to the development of academia, science and technology while educating many people who have become leaders in a wide range of roles in the society. In 1987, IMR was reorganized to its present form of a national collaborative research institute affiliated to Tohoku University. It has developed as a Center of Excellence for state-of-the-art research on metals and a wider range of other advanced materials. IMR has been visited by many researchers from Japan and other countries. With their participation, research projects involving collaboration with IMR's individual research laboratories and the use of IMR's facilities and equipment are actively progressing.

Innovative research on advanced new materials, which is IMR's primary commitment, depends mainly on the creativity of individual researchers who have a distinctive originality. However, implementing large-scale projects in collaboration with individual researchers is becoming increasingly important. In line with this, IMR intends to actively participate in large-scale projects launched by Japan's ministries and agencies according to the "Second Science and Technology Basic Plan" initiated in April 2001. The target of this plan is to promote the applications of basic research achievements for the society.

IMR understood the necessity of disseminating its accomplishments in the areas of research, education and social activities. An Office of Information and Public Relations headed by a deputy director has been established when Tohoku University was granted corporate status in April 2004. The new office includes a library, a public relations section, a review section and an integrated network operation section. After the reorganization of IMR in April 2004, this report has been prepared by the Review Office and completed by the review section headed by the chairperson of the Research and Planning Coordination Committee (called the Review Committee until 2001, the FY 2003 chairperson was Prof. Sadamichi Maekawa). The Office of Information and Public Relations was firstly headed by deputy director Shuji Hanada and then from April 2005 by deputy director Masayuki Hasegawa.

This report was developed by the Review Office which collected a large amount of data with the cooperation of all IMR members including the teaching, administrative and technical staff. Most of

the data on individual teaching staff are from the Tohoku University Information Database (operation started in December 2004) which was created and designed for various kinds of evaluations in the university. Within IMR, Prof. Hasegawa, the head of the Review Office, is responsible for editing this report and the research associate Ms. Utako Onose works for its practical business to keep an organic collaboration with the whole university evaluation system that started when the corporate status was granted.

By publishing this report on our activities relating to research, education and the social contributions, IMR intends to be accountable to tax payers, to receive evaluations from the standpoint of specialists and the general public reflecting the results on its future development, and to share its accomplishments with the society. This year's report is especially meaningful since it includes details on the research and educational activities and social contributions that were performed in the first corporate year of IMR.

It would be my pleasure if this report is taken up, read and reviewed as basic literature to evaluate and criticize the IMR, which is indispensable for the future progress of IMR.

October 2005

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Director of IMR