Defining the contribution of engineering to society

Engineering turns science and technology into something tangible and useful to society. It is applied in creating various structures, home appliances and other infrastructures and equipment, which make human lives safe and convenient.

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, Kyoto will host the World Engineering Conference and Convention (WECC 2015), in which engineers from around the world gather to discuss the importance of engineering and showcase their technologies. The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEF) holds it every four years.

How can engineering contribute to society? How can Japan contribute to global engineering? What is the significance of Japan hosting the WECC?

This Japan Times held a forum to discuss these issues on June 11. Participating in the forum were Ryoji Chubachi, president of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; Katsuya Hasegawa, a professor in the Department of Urban Engineering and adjunct professor of Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science at the University of Tokyo; Hideki Namamura, president-senior advisor of Tokyo City University; and Junichi Sato, president of The Japan Federation of Engineering Societies. The moderator was Yoshihisa Uehara, an advisor and contributing editorial writer for Kyodo News.

Below are excerpts of their discussion:

Moderator: Thank you very much for your invitation. I am Yoshihisa Uehara from Kyodo News.

YoSHIAKI MIURA: It is applied in creating various structures, home appliances and other infrastructures and equipment, which make human lives safe and convenient.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your introduction. You are a well-known engineer who have contributed much in the field of engineering. We will begin with the panel discussion.

The Japan Times forum on engineering

Working to cultivate and grow the next generation of engineers

In the second part of our session, we will discuss in more detail what needs to be done better to nurture tomorrow's engineers and how engineers can better contribute to society.

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