# FLEAT II Report

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The theme of FLEAT II was "Internationalizing Foreign Language Education through Technology," and thanks to the generous financial support of numerous organizations and individuals in Japan and the United States, including travel support provided by the Sony Corporation of America, the conference was truly international: 400 people from at least six countries attended. The conference began with a keynote address, "Prospects for Foreign Language Education," by Soichi Iijima, former president of Nagoya University. Iijima's address focused on the history of language study in Japan and concluded with suggestions on how technology can now add to the record. His address was given in downtown Nagoya at the International Center, and was followed by a panel on Machine Translation. The new and beautiful Miura Kohei Memorial Hall on the Chubu University campus was the site for the remaining plenary sessions and keynote speeches. ACTFL president Gerard L. Ervin of Ohio State University asked, "Can Technology Fulfill its Purpose?" He emphasized that the question cannot be answered easily, but offered seven principles to be considered to properly integrate technology into language instruction. A special moment in the conference was when Ervin played a song written for the Japanese shakuhachi on his flute to illustrate the international language that music is. Scott Windeatt, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, spoke on "New Technologies, New Methodologies." He stressed that any methodology can be used with any technology, but proposed that computer technology will lead to new methodologies.

Computer topics dominated the concurrent sessions. There were several demonstrations of authoring systems and multimedia configurations. Many of these were also shown in the Showcase sessions, which were held during the lunch hour in the same room with the vendor exhibits. There were several sessions which dealt with the methodological issues surrounding technology use. Networks, such as the INTERNET, and electronic bulletin boards and email were treated as well. Appropriately, attendees were allowed to send email messages from a machine in the exhibit area. The presenters I heard were well prepared and had good handouts. Many participants encouraged the inclusion of more research-focused presentations for FLEAT III. It is research which can resolve the many questions raised at FLEAT II concerning the proper use of technology in language teaching.

Much of the success of the conference was due to the gracious hospitality of the Japanese hosts. They arranged comfortable hotel accommodations for a reasonable price and provided train and bus instructions in English. On Wednesday evening the overseas attendees were treated to a sumptuous welcoming banquet. There were two opportunities to participate in a tea ceremony and an optional cormorant fishing party was organized for Thursday night. English-speaking guides were ever-present to direct the attendees and run errands for presenters. Each IALL member was given a FLEAT II souvenir T-shirt. One of the kindest gestures was the personal gift from LLA president Yoshinobu Niwa of a woven fabric picture by the famous 19th century artist, Hiroshige Ando. Yet perhaps most gracious of all was the use of English for the majority of presentations. When one notes that the Japanese outnumbered the overseas attendees seven-to-one, the generosity of this gesture is all the more apparent.

FLEAT I (August, 1981) and 11 were held in Japan, but FLEAT III is slated for the University of

Victoria in British Columbia in 1997. IALL members will again have the opportunity to interact with colleagues from around the world. Yet we need not wait until then to make contact with our peers. As was mentioned, a major topic of FLEAT II was electronic networking. Thanks to this resource we can share our questions, problems, and insights with our overseas counterparts now. By doing so we can put into practice the theme of FLEAT II, "Intemationalizing Foreign Language Education through Technology." -W.R.