

§2. Complementary Study of Nuclear Fusion Archiving by Means of Oral History

Fujita, J. (NIFS, Professor Emeritus),
Terashima, Y. (Nagoya Univ., Professor Emeritus),
Obayashi, H. (NIFS, Professor Emeritus),
Matsuoka, K., Namba, C., Kimura, K.,
Kato, N., Abe, N. (The Graduate Univ. Adv. Studies)

Introduction

In carrying out archival studies on early days' nuclear fusion research in Japan through the collection of historical documents, it is noted that some of the documents are missing, and the underlying stories are not always clear due to the incompleteness of the materials. It is an urgent task to complement the archives through interviews with senior scientists who played important role in those days, by means of oral history, which is one of important methods in archival studies. So far interviews were conducted with Prof. Sekiguchi, T. on the topics of the nuclear fusion research in early days' Japan (NIFS-MEMO-33, NIFS-MEMO-40), Prof. Matsuura, K. on the initiation and the termination of Reacting Plasma Project (R-Project), (NIFS-MEMO-47) and Dr. Morino, N. on the participation of industries in the initial stage of fusion research in Japan.

Interviews

In this fiscal year, an interview was conducted with Prof. Yamamoto, K., under the collaboration program with The Graduate University for Advanced Studies on "History and Archives of Inter-University Research Institute." The subject and other information concerning the interviews are listed below:

- (1) Interview with Prof. Yamamoto Kenzo
 - a. Interview subject: "On the "History of nuclear fusion research and development in Japan-1."
 - b. Interviewers: Fujita, J., Terashima, Y., Obayashi, H., Matsuoka, K., Namba, C., Kimura, K., Morino, N., Kitsunozaki, A, Kato, N.
 - c. Date and place: 2005.7.7, 2:00-5:00 pm, at the meeting room of National Institutes of Natural Sciences, Tokyo Branch.

Interviews with Dr. Young, Kenneth M., and Prof. Yoshikawa, S. were also conducted on the occasion of US-Japan Workshop on Archiving of the Early Days' Nuclear Fusion Research in US and Japan:
- (2) Interview with Dr. Young, Kenneth M.
 - a. Interview subject: "Early days' nuclear fusion research at Plasma Physics Laboratory, Princeton University, and industrial involvement on nuclear fusion research in the United States."
 - b. Interviewers: Fujita, J., Matsuoka, K., Obayashi, H., Namba, C., Kimura, K., Tomita, Y, Mizuuchi, T, Abe, N.
 - c. Date and place: 2005.12.15, 9:15-12:15 am, at Furth Library, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.
- (3) Interview with Prof. Yoshikawa Shoichi

- a. Interview subject: "History of nuclear fusion research at PPPL, especially of Prof. Yoshikawa's research."
- b. Interviewers: Matsuoka, K., Obayashi, H., Fujita, J., Namba, C., Kimura, K., Tomita, Y, Mizuuchi, T, Abe, N.
- c. Date and place: 2005.12.15, 2:00-4:30 pm, at Furth Library, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Procedure of the Interview

- (1) Inquiries in advance

The questions from interviewers were first gathered and summarized as usual. The outline of the questions was handed to the interviewee in advance.
- (2) Introduction of our archival activity

Before starting the interview, a brief summary of our archiving activity was introduced in order to help the interviewee to understand our intention of conducting the interview.
- (3) Interview

No strict manner of oral history, which is an established technical method of the interview, was applied in our case, but a style of round-table talk was adopted because of its unfamiliarity and unsuitability in Japanese society. The agreement between interviewee and interviewers on video and voice recordings of the interview was orally confirmed in advance for each interview.

The talk by the interviewee, questions and answers, and discussions among all participants were altogether conducted under a moderator, Fujita, J. for interviews (1) and (2), and Matsuoka, K. for interview (3).
- (4) Transcription and record making

After preparing a rough transcript, all the interviewers checked and edited it for accuracy and clarity. The response given in advance by the interviewee was also checked and confirmed for authenticity. The edited transcript then went on to the interviewee for corrections or additions.
- (5) Publication

The interview records together with the outline of the questions will be published in a series of NIFS-MEMO after corrected by the interviewee.

Issues to be solved

The interviews were very successful, mainly due to the cooperative manner of the interviewees. The issues, however, of exchanging written forms of agreement on recording the interviews and publishing the transcripts remained to be solved, taking various aspects into consideration.

Future plan

We have a plan to extend the interviews toward more persons and subjects, especially focusing on the international collaborations before the formal collaboration program started. We have also an intention to conduct interviews with pioneering researchers on inertial confinement fusion.

We are making a continuing effort to edit and publish the reports of above-mentioned interviews in FY2006.