

### **Asuka Seminar opens splendidly**

The 54th Asuka Seminar was grandly held on October 6 and 7 at the Kira Kanko Hotel in Mikawa Bay National Park as one of the biggest annual events. Seventy customers of Asuka's products were invited and attended.

At first, President Takashi Amano addressed welcome speech, and then the all attendants devoted themselves to the informative seminar, which was summarized as follows. The photo on page two is Mr. Nakaba Ichikawa lecturing on stage and enthusiastic attendants.

#### Is your molten metal clean really? (Part 2)

Mr. Nakaba Ichikawa  
Chief Manager, Eco System, LLC.

#### Flux

There are many kinds of flux as follows, and the proper usage of flux is necessity.

- (1) Flux for getting rid of dross – separation of surface oxide.
- (2) Flux for molten metal processing – to float oxide on surface.
- (3) Dross processing – to recover metal by thermite reaction.
- (4) Flux for addition of elements – to add Na, Ti, B, P and others.
- (5) Flux for removal of elements – to remove Mg, Ca and Na.
- (6) Covering flux – to stop oxidation of surface and adulteration of hydrogen gas in molten aluminum.
- (7) Flux for clean wall – to clean oxide attached furnace inner wall.
- (8) Flux for degassing – to remove hydrogen gas.

In these various fluxes, (1) and (2) are very important and indispensable fluxes for us, molten aluminum business.

#### Flux and oxide

Molten aluminum becomes easily aluminum oxide with oxygen in the air. At first it is very thin film on the surface of molten aluminum, but the thickness increases on and on. As the gravity of molten aluminum and aluminum oxide is similar, they easily mix together. It is very difficult to separate them.

The aluminum oxide in molten aluminum invites degradation of physical quality of casted products, and sometimes invites lower liquidity of molten aluminum, and also invites outbreak of inferior products.

Traditionally, it had been thought that the increase of Si brings better liquidity, but today we understand that the perfect flux processing shows better result. The higher content of Si invites the breakout of hard spots.

#### Conclusion

Recently, the effects of flux is visualized with ALTEC, which we developed with Asuka's study team. It can check out automatically the situation of crystallization and casting condition through molten metal cooling curve within some minutes. We can know the best effect of flux with it.

I think it is important that we have both traditional casters' eyes and modern numerical control system. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

### **Grand party is held generously**

After Mr. Ichikawa's informative seminar, a grand party was held in traditional Japanese fashion. At first President Takashi Amano gave welcome and opening words as the photo on page three shows, and Mr. Ichikawa, speaker of the seminar, performed the toastmaster. Every attendant enjoyed himself the autumn taste in Mikawa Bay.

Then they moved to Night Salon, where all attendants had a very good time, singing *karaoke* and tasting mellow drinks thoroughly until midnight. The open-air bath has favorable views, stars, small isles and peaceful bay water, and everyone had a quite good time throughout this evening.

### **Asuka cup Golf Competition opens**

Following regular custom, 29th Asuka Cup Golf Competition was held at Kira Country Club on the morning of October 7 for golf devotees. After a very hard fight, winners are:

First prize	Mr. Masanao Okada (Asuka Industries, Inc.)
2nd. prize	Mr. Shinji Ikeda (Hekkai Koki Co., Ltd.)
3rd. prize	Mr. Kazuhiro Okuda (Okuda Industry Ltd.)
BB prize	Mr. Kouichiro Ohta (Itochu Metals Co., Ltd.)

Congratulations everyone! Let's fight here next year again.

### **Observation tours obtain excellent results**

Comfortable season has come, and we welcomed three Asuka plant observation tours as follows. At first on September 29, Nagoya City Environmental Dpt. sent us 18 members, and on October 11 Ohbu City Environmental Dpt. sent us 27 members, and also on October 17, 47 pupils and 3 teachers visited us from Nakabata Primary School, Nishio City.

At first every group walked around our plant to see the process of aluminum recycling, and then at meeting room they watched video of aluminum can recycling. Then they received lectures on environmental problems.

Through the tour, everyone was impressed to see directly real aluminum recycling process, and got a big knowledge on environmental problem.

The photos on page four show from top, the group of Nagoya City Environmental Dpt., the group of Ohbu City Environmental Dpt. and the pupils and teachers from Nakabata Primary School, Nishio City.

### **The Japan of today**

New 465 sheets are elected

The campaign of Lower House election is over, and on October 23 the results were disclosed. The media reported that the Liberal Democratic Party led by P.M. Shinzo Abe won by a "land slide". But in a simple comparison with pre-election figures, all major parties appear to have lost seats except Yukio Edano's Constitutional Democratic Party.

The Liberal Democratic Party won 284 seats, down from the 290 it had before the election, the Constitutional Democratic Party won 54 seats up from 16 before.