

**Welcome to
the Fifth International Symposium
on the Analytic Hierarchy Process,
Kobe, Japan**

I wish to express my whole-hearted welcome to all the participants of this Fifth International Symposium on the Analytic Hierarchy Process.

More than a quarter of a century has passed since Professor Thomas L. Saaty proposed the AHP and this is the Fifth International Symposium since the first one was held in Tianjing, China, in 1988. During this period, the theory of AHP has progressed thanks to many researchers, and its applications in the real world has become frequent.

In Japan, too, the number of researchers in this field is increasing and the application of the theory has continually increased. Under such circumstances, the symposium is meaningful and useful for promoting the development of the theory.

The purpose of the symposium is to deepen the participants' understanding of the AHP. Presentations by researchers and the AHP application models will be conducted. Through lively discussion and the exchange of constructive opinions, I wish to share with all the participants the potential of the AHP in the Twenty-first Century.

In closing, I wish to express my deep thanks to the people and groups who have cooperated and given support for this symposium

August 12th, 1999

Eizo Kinoshita
Conference Chair

Organizing Committee for the Fifth International Symposium
on the Analytic Hierarchy Process