

Preface

This book contains contributions that were presented at the International Conference on Polycrystalline Semiconductors having taken place from September 10 to 13, 2002, in Nara, Japan. Nara, the old emperor town, with its beautiful peaceful ancient buildings and with its stimulating vivacity was just the right place for this seventh conference of a whole series of POLYSE conferences. More than 100 participants from 7 countries gathered in the Nara Town Hall (Shinkokaido) and all the presentations took advantage from the cultural flair of the No theatre the stage of which provided the speaker's rostrum.

Like the previous conferences, POLYSE 2002 covered many aspects of polycrystalline semiconductors, but without doubt paid tribute to the strongly increasing economic importance of polycrystalline materials in devices like flat panel displays or thin film solar cells. Nevertheless, fundamental aspects from defect engineering problems to detailed engineering questions were broadly covered. Thus, again like at previous POLYSE conferences, a community with broad interest ranging from basic science to device engineering conducted fruitful discussions at a very high level to advance science and engineering.

The invited presentations were again a trigger to vivid discussion. The speakers presented a broad range of topics, interesting current problems and aspects reaching into the future. These invited speakers were:

J. D. Caspenson	H. Fujiwara
H. Ichinose	J. Jang
S. Miyazaki	H. Mizuta
P. Roca I Cabarrocas	T. Shiba
U. Weber	M. Wu

We are grateful for their timely and excellent introductory presentations. These invited talks were accompanied by 33 oral and by 41 poster presentations. We would like to thank all the authors for their interesting contributions that present state-of-the-art research. Most of these contributions are found in these proceedings.

We obtained much support for the success of POLYSE 2002 and are very grateful to the members of our International Advisory Committee who supported us by invaluable input on topics and by suggestions of potential speakers. We also want to acknowledge the many sponsors and exhibitors, whose financial support certainly took a considerable share in the fruitful and successful course of the conference.

There existed a back-stage scenery where many helpful assistants assured smoothly planning and conduction of the conference. These persons deserve our cordial thanks for their endurance and concern.

Nara, Tokyo, Erlangen, and Stuttgart

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