

## Technical Fair

On December 15th, 16th, and 17th I participated in the first open technical fair hosted by Osaka Gas. The fair was to take place over two days, the 16th and 17th, with the 15th being used for set-up. The fair was open to other gas companies in order to promote open research in fields regarding energy usage. The idea of uniting gas companies to compete with electric companies is a very real solution that could lead to greater advances in the fuel technology that would both aid sales and increase the caliber of the products created. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts is the general motivation.



### Takemori san's Steam Kitchen

The 15<sup>th</sup> was used to set-up the display, the process was fairly straight-forward, attaching all of the prototype equipment we'd constructed over the past months. Everything was stable, with minor technical issues in terms of performance, i.e. the hot water generator water was too hot.

My display, the bathroom, had 6 different concept features:

- Steam sauna,
- Mist sauna,
- Touhikekkousokushin (scalp blood-flow promotion) cap,
- Steam beganki( facial beauty device),
- Steam cleaner, and
- Steam shiwa(wrinkle) stretcher.

The experience was very different from what I had imagined. Many different reactions were expressed as over 4000 people attended to see the two hundred and fifty different displays.



### Wrinkle Stretcher at work

The wrinkle remover and steam cleaner were designed by a previous intern. The cleaner used a nozzle with a brush that would combine steam and scrubbing to easily remove dirt, mold, and mildew from the bathroom surfaces. The steam wrinkle remover used steam to straighten out the fibers in the clothing material, using gravity to hold them in place as the only required force. The only drawback was that the wrinkle remover was leaving condensation on the shirts.



### **the Steam Sauna and Steam Mist sauna**

The steam sauna and steam-mist sauna were simple versions of what the actual product will probably be like. The steam sauna used steam only and created a very humid and warm environment. The steam-mist sauna used the force of the steam to split the water into small mist particles that would moisten skin. The attraction of the mist sauna is that it is adjustable, the steam has water molecules, independent of each other, while the mist sauna can create water particles with diameters less than 1 micron or over 100 microns. The adjustability is very appealing because it will allow people to customize their experience more freely.



### **the hair and skin care centre**

The scalp blood-flow promotion cap uses

a type of professional hairdryer cap to collect steam around the hair. The research in this area, according to Takemori san, is that the steam will improve blood flow in the scalp, increasing stimulation and reducing hair loss. It does not fight genetics but from my personal 経験 experience with the prototype, it does make hair more easily manageable within seconds.



### **Steam Cleaner**

The steam facial device outputs a small amount of steam in order to open facial pores and improve/preserve skin beauty. The steam is ejected through the nozzles and one can breathe it in. The steam effectively cleans the throat as well. The steam can remove bacteria from the back of the throat at higher temperatures and relax vocal muscles which can be very beneficial for singers or people with congestion.

The fair itself was very busy, people coming through every minute, asking questions, wanting to see how the system worked. Not every person stopped to ask about the bathroom devices, but I was

constantly explaining features of the bathroom display over and over again for different people. The initial nervous feelings faded quickly after it became apparent that I could easily explain each feature with a few simple sentences.

The fair was very good for making new contacts and networking, I was offered a job working for Osaka Gas Australia in the future, and was given a business card by the president of a hazardous gas alarm manufacturer. Many important people were there, I even met Asahara Nobuharu, the Osaka 100m dash competitor at the Olympics.

Men enjoyed the appearance of the display and its features, and most women who approached the bathroom were very enthusiastic. Many were impressed with the facial device, despite the noise the steam produced. Many of the men wanted to test the cap, but the temperature was too high for it to be safe. Many people were impressed with the option of changing the particle size in the mist sauna, and the steam cleaner/wrinkle remover were well understood, despite the condensation on the shirts which, as I explained to them, was a product of the incorrect nozzle head.

In summary, the technical fair was very successful. All of the aspects were understood for their concepts, and many people stopped to find out what the features were. Not everyone stopped, which I am a little happy about, seeing as 4000 people attended the event. But the reactions

were a good indication that people might be interested in these products, and the feedback, although minimal, was useful none-the-less.

In conclusion, I am looking forward to the next technical fair if it is held while I am still here, my Japanese will be better, and the prototypes will hopefully be more user friendly so that people can see how they like it. It was a great learning experience in general; it helped my Japanese with all of the practice before and during the even, and it was a nice symbol of team work and hopefully a bigger future.