

JPCA and EIPC!

JPCA

As mentioned previously, the JPCA show is held at Tokyo Big Sight which is a large impressive venue. There is a big (and I mean big) saw in the front yard of the building with a red handle. Not sure what that is about, I guess I should ask someone someday. Upon entering you can hear the steady buzz of visitors and booth attendees discussing the daily topics. One thing I learned from this visit is that many of the folks manning the booths are not simply there to meet and greet, they're there to sell you something. And many of the booths are occupied by PCB shops.

The Taiyo booth had a very nice central location and was bustling with people, both employees and visitors. This was the one area of the show where I actually knew many of the people. As you can imagine, Taiyo is a very well-known name in Japan as it is home to our corporate headquarters.

Getting to and from the show is quite interesting, you would be surprised how many people you can jam into a train car. It would have been a great opportunity to meet some new friends, if only I could speak the language. All in all it was a great trip filled with many memorable moments. I look forward to attending another show at the big site in another four or five years.

EIPC

Being the 50th anniversary we all knew that the EIPC conference would be well attended and I was quite impressed by the turnout. Close to 150 delegates packed the meeting room with more anticipation than a new Tom Cruise movie. For the first time since I've been involved with the EIPC I wasn't presenting as I thought I would give others a chance.

As always, the two day event was jam packed with interesting articles, topics and new ideas. The committee did a great job of keeping the program moving as we needed to stay on schedule. We filled two very large buses and headed out for Unimicron, to visit their new layer factory. They have an impressive new building with clean floors, fresh paint and lots of shiny new equipment. Operators and robots (yes, I said robots) scurrying around making sure all is right. The operation if not totally finished, therefore we had to be mindful of people trying to get some real work accomplished.

The committee hit a "home run" with the dinner venue after the tour with lots of good food being prepared on outdoor grills and Pepsis to quench ones' thirst. Many people to visit with as no one wanted to miss the tour or the dinner. The bus trip back to the hotel was noticeably quiet after such a long day. With all of the conferences I've attended I now realize how many people I've met and consider friends, as well as colleagues.

It sounds like the next two conferences are already in the works. I look forward to making the trek back to this area in February and June of 2019. *Stay tuned to hear the details; maybe you'll want to make the trip!*