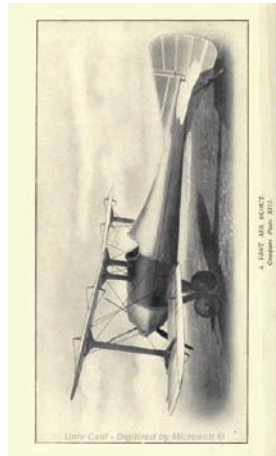
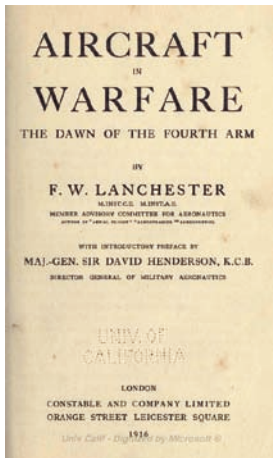


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## What is Operations Research?



The thesis published in the U.K. which marked the starting point of OR  
<http://www.archive.org/details/aircraftinwarfar00lanrich>

The research field of Assistant Professor Takeda featured in this issue is operations research (OR). As its name indicates, OR was initially used to meet military needs.”

During the World War II period, the U.S.A. and the U.K. were at fierce war against Japan and Germany and in need of methodologies for efficient and effective use of war potential capabilities, which spurred the development of OR. For instance, OR was used to identify how to operate naval ships in order to protect their own ships against the suicide attacks by Japan's kamikaze planes and how and where to install radars to effectively detect enemy planes. The basic approach of OR is not to enhance performance capabilities of individual pieces of weaponry (hardware) but to enhance efficiency in the use (software) of weaponry.

As such, OR produced remarkable achievements during the war. In the postwar period, OR came to be applied mainly to serve business purposes, such as management planning and production planning. According to the Operations Research Society of Japan website, OR is defined as “A study for problem-solving by using scientific or logical methodologies.”

OR has a characteristic as being an interdisciplinary research as it encompasses not only mathematics and engineering, but also economics and business administration. Our modern society is becoming increasingly complex. Take environmental issues, for example, in which many diverse elements are intertwined. To obtain the optimal solution, OR is gaining importance more than ever.

## Science and Technology Information

### Strategic Management Chair for Creating Innovations (a Sony-donated chair) The 3d Open Symposium “Toward a New Phase of Development of Humankind and Society: The Future of the Global Environment and Economy”

February 24 (Wed.), 2010 18:00 ~

North Wing Hall on the Keio Mita Campus

Admission free; Prior applications required

<http://www.dc01.adst.keio.ac.jp/kj/kll/index.php>

This event is the last of a 3-round-series open symposium by an endowed chair established in the Keio Graduate School of Science and Technology in fiscal 2009. Mr. Mario Tokoro, President of Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Inc. and a special research fellow for Keio Graduate School of Science and Technology, will preside over the symposium, inviting Associate Professor Katsuhiro Nishinari (School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo) and other scientists for discussion.

Please apply for participation with the above URL.

### The 7th KLL Industry -Academia Collaboration Seminar “- The Ever-expanding Potential of ‘Light’ -”

February 26 (Fri.), 2010 15:00 ~

Multipurpose classroom #3, 2nd floor, Kyosei-kan Bldg. on the Keio Hiyoshi Campus

Admission free; Prior applications required

<http://www.kll.keio.ac.jp/seminar/index.html>

This seminar is a seminar offered by the Keio Leading-edge Laboratory of Science and Technology (KLL). The seminar will focus on four research themes: the Nanophotonics technology that “manipulates light”; materials that are “controlled by light”; devices “based on functions of light”; and systems designed to “make use of light for medical treatment.” After the seminar, there will be a meeting for friendship promotion and exchange of opinions among the seminar participants.

Please apply for participation with the above URL.

### Editor's postscript

While the inaugural issue featured Assistant Professor Junichi Ushiba from the medical/engineering field, the current issue highlighted Assistant Professor Akiko Takeda from the science field. When I contacted her for an interview appointment, Ms. Takeda said, “It'll be boring to feature me because I don't move but just sit at my desk all day.” But while sitting at her desk, I'm sure our readers find it exciting to see that her fields of study are actually so broad and concerned with many aspects of our society. The Takeda Laboratory was established this year. Much is expected of her laboratory.

On page 6, Ms. Takeda introduced recommended spots in the Jiyugaoka Station vicinity, only 10 minutes from the Hiyoshi Station on the Tokyu Toyoko Line which is the nearest station from our Hiyoshi Campus. In the forthcoming issues, too, we will continue to focus on “OFF time” (“bona fide” face) of the person to be featured in each issue, reporting their pursuits of personal interest and moments of relaxation during their busy daily schedules.

The next issue (Japanese version) will be published in early March, which will feature an Assistant Professor belonging to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, whose specialty being nano/micro-scale electrical machinery systems. He says he is already standing by for an interview, having put his bookshelf in order (usually in disarray). As the editor, I'm truly thankful for this consideration.

\* Due to space limitation, the “New Kyurizukai” cannot carry the full text of the interview. For the full text, please refer to the website version.  
(Saori Taira)

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