

Preface

There were several US-Japan Seminars on operator algebras in the past, many of which were held at important turning points in the development of the theory of operator algebras such as A. Connes' breakthrough on classification of injective factors, the advent of the Jones index theory and so on. The previous one was held at Philadelphia in 1988, and no seminar was held in the next ten years. However, during this period we witnessed far-reaching advancement of the classification theory on C^* -algebras based on the K-theory, and operator algebraists in the both sides of the Pacific felt to have to have another one with the main emphasis on this subject. Under these circumstances, with the generous financial support from the US National Science Foundation and the Japan Society for Promotion of Science, the US-Japan Seminar "Operator Algebras and Applications" was held on June 7-11, 1999 at the Kyushu University. It is my great pleasure to present here the proceedings of the seminar. At first I am grateful to Professor Bruce Blackadar for his leadership in the US side, which made it possible to plan such a seminar. I am also grateful to all the contributors for their willingness to give me original manuscripts for the current proceedings. Another thing worth recording here is the participation of Korean operator algebraists, which became possible by the mutual agreement between the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation and the above funding organizations. I am grateful to Professor Seung-Hyeok Kye for his effort to make this do happen, and am glad that three articles by Korean authors are included in the proceedings.

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All papers in this volume have been refereed and are in final form. No version of any of them will be submitted for publication elsewhere.