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Contacts:

Elizabeth Clements, ILC-Americas, +1 630-840-2326, lizzie@fnal.gov

Perrine Royole-Degieux, ILC-Europe, +33-4 73 40 54 59, royole@in2p3.fr

Rika Takahashi, ILC-Asia, +81-29-879-6209, rika.takahashi@kek.jp

Barbara Warmbein, ILC-Europe, +49-170-3346816, barbara.warmbein@desy.de

Sakue Yamada to lead International Linear Collider detector design

Tokyo, Japan -- The International Linear Collider Steering Committee (ILCSC), a sub-panel of the International Committee for Future Accelerators (ICFA), has appointed Sakue Yamada, Professor Emeritus of University of Tokyo, to become the research director for the International Linear Collider, a proposed future particle accelerator.

Yamada will report to the ILCSC and will be responsible for the experimental programme of the ILC. An international endeavour, the ILC published a Reference Design Report in August 2007 and now enters an engineering design phase that will last through 2010. Yamada's appointment will last through this engineering phase, at which time the ILC will be ready for formal presentation to international funding agencies and other governing bodies.

"It took me some days to accept this unprecedented challenge, and now I am determined to move us forward energetically toward rich physics possibilities embedded in a global design of the linear collider," said Yamada, who is also a Professor Emeritus at the National Accelerator Research Laboratory of the High Energy Accelerator Research Organisation (KEK) and the Graduate University for Advanced Studies.

The ILC will unlock compelling questions: What are the building blocks of matter, and how do they fit together to shape the world? Are there more dimensions of space than the three known to our everyday senses? What is the nature of the dark matter that binds galaxies together?

"Within the last decade our concept of the universe has radically evolved, and the resulting questions can be answered by the new accelerator technology that is available to us," said Yamada. "The International Linear Collider can make historic discoveries that will make the science in the text books for future generations."

Yamada has years of experience in international particle physics collaborations such as the DORIS, PETRA and HERA experiments at DESY. He also participated in the LEP experiment at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) during the detector design period.

As the research director, Yamada will lead the development of the ILC experimental programme, which currently has four proposed detector concepts. One of his main responsibilities will include implementing procedures for selecting two contrasting and complementary detector designs. Yamada will also guide the global detector R&D activities, including to help secure the required resources and endorse major technical decisions. To help complete these tasks, Yamada intends to form a management structure and appoint an International Detector Advisory Group.

"Yamada is one of the most respected personalities in particle physics, and has much experience of engaging in and leading large collider experiments," said Shin-Ichi Kurokawa, chair of the ILCSC. "This will be a weighty responsibility, but I am sure he will provide the leadership to coordinate the ongoing activities in ILC detector design during this crucial period. Now both the accelerator and detectors have a strong leadership that will surely make the momentum of the ILC project much stronger."

For over a decade, the work on the ILC detector designs, their technologies and related R&D has been coordinated through a global effort called the World Wide Study. Jim Brau, the co-leader of the WWS and physics professor at the University of Oregon, believes that the appointment of a research director will help lead the detector community to achieve their ambitious goals.

"Yamada is an excellent choice for ILC Research Director," Brau said. "We have many difficult challenges ahead as we prepare the experimental programme. With the accelerator moving effectively toward a detailed engineering design within a few years, it is very important that the detector efforts keep pace."

While Yamada will lead the experimental programme for the ILC, the Global Design Effort, led by Barry Barish, will continue to manage the engineering efforts and R&D programme for the accelerator. "I look forward to joining forces with Yamada," said Barish. "His leadership is a welcome addition and will make a vital contribution to turning a vision into a reality."

Additional information about the ILC is available at <http://www.linearcollider.org>.