

## Great Distinction Awarded to Greek Professor from Japan

Great recognition from the Far East, particularly from Japan, was established for Professor Nikolaos Aravas, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Thessaly, Greece, who was designated as “World Premier International Professor” and will begin a close collaboration with the International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research (I<sup>2</sup>CNER), University of Kyushu, Japan, in order to research the effect of hydrogen on mechanical behavior of construction materials.

It was with great satisfaction and pleasure that Professor Aravas accepted the invitation from the University of Kyushu. Before working at the University of Thessaly, the professor had worked at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Pennsylvania, USA, for 16 consecutive years focusing his research on Computational Mechanics of Materials with a plethora of studies and research published in international scientific journals.

Professor Aravas said, “After the recommendation of the I<sup>2</sup>CNER Scientific Committee, which is the sixth and most recent member of the WPI Research Center Initiative established in 2007 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology, Japan, an invitation came to me to be included in a research program at the International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research (I<sup>2</sup>CNER), University of Kyushu. I accepted the proposition with great satisfaction and pleasure and on January 28 I will travel to Japan for the first meeting.”

Explaining the object of his research, Professor Aravas stated: “We will examine the production of energy from hydrogen. Apart from the good things that hydrogen can offer us, there is also a bad thing, which is the fact that it erodes the materials and decreases their durability. We will focus on that matter. For instance, in the US there is a great debate whether gas pipes can carry hydrogen.”

The professor underlined that his collaboration with the University of Kyushu opens a new window to the local institution, since his research will also accept undergraduates and postdoctoral researchers from its Department of Mechanical Engineering, while his goal is to link that research with the Thessaly Center for Research & Technology whose Institute of Mechatronics he directs.

It is worth noting, finally, that in 1987, Professor Aravas was awarded the Presidential Young Investigator Award by the president of the USA, which is awarded to distinguished young scientists.