



Mottainai Thought and Social Acceptability of Robots in Japan

Full Day Workshop on Roboethics

ICRA'07

2007 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation

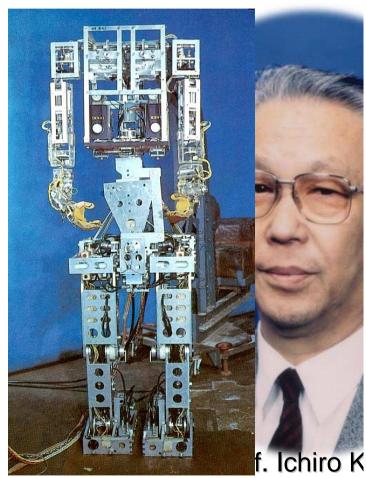
14 April 2007, Roma, Italy

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Waseda's Achievements in Humanoid Robotics led by the late Prof. Ichiro Kato









WABOT-2 (1984)



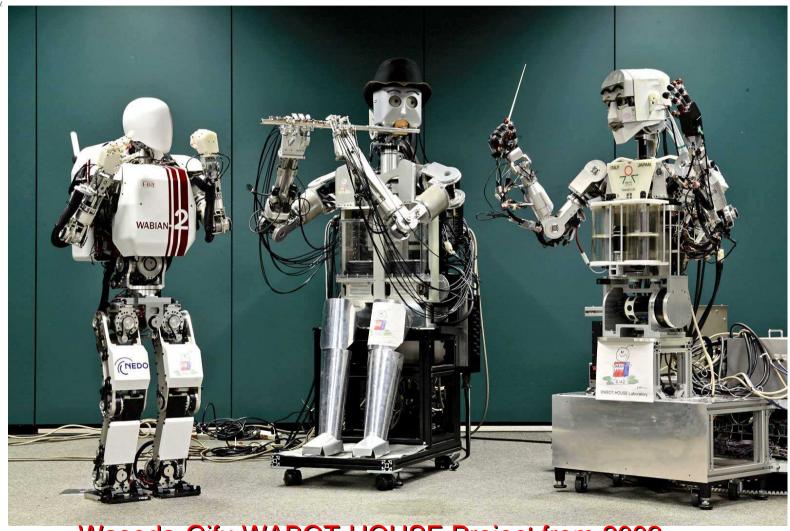


- Established in April, 2000
- 8 Fulltime Professors and 10 Visiting Professors/Researchers including from Overseas
- More than 60 graduate students and post-doc researchers (More than 100 including undergraduates)
- More than 30 ongoing projects
- Organizing Humanoid Consortium
- Supported by: METI, NEDO, MEST, Gifu Pref., TMSUK, SANYO, SONY, HITACHI, NTT, NTT DoCoMo, OKINO, OSADA, ZMP, Fukuoka Pref., Fukuoka City, Niigata Pref.
- RoboCasa: SSSA-Waseda Joint Laboratory (2003/4/1)
- Center of Excellence in the 21st Century in Robotics Show! (2003/7)
- Super COE on Advanced Science and Medical Care (2004/7)



Not Bad, are those Humanoid Robots?





Waseda-Gifu WABOT-HOUSE Project from 2002



WABIAN-2R: Mechanical Motion Simulator of a Human







Human Like Knee-Extension Walking with 50cm step length

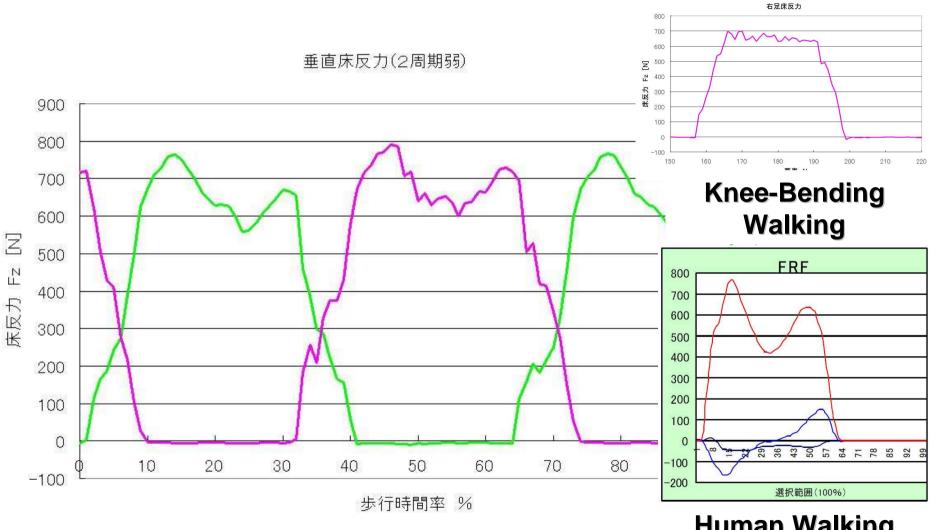
WABIAN-2R can walk outside





Human-Like Ground Reaction Force in Knee-Extension Walking





Human Walking



WABIAN-2's Walking Assisted by Hitachi Walker for Elderly/Handicapped



Bending 0.2[m] Knee stretched 0.2[m] Real World Simulations of a human assisted by the Walker



WABIAN-2R Simulates Handicapped





Step Length: 0.32 [m/step] Step Cycle: Left Swing: 1.56 [s/step]

0.32 [m/step] Right Swing: 1.04 [s/step]



WABIAN-2R Goes to Streets, but Many Problems!





Special Economical Zone for Robot Test and Experiment in Fukuoka



Emotion Expression Robot: EYE-Chan







Trying to Add Consciousness

Object-Emotion Correlation Learning



WF-4's Flute Play:



The Flight of the Bumble-Bee (Rimsky-Korsakov)

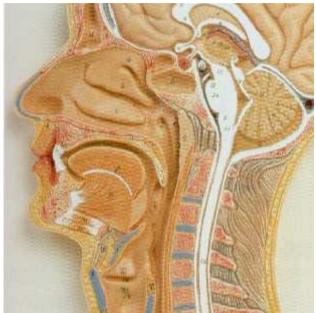




Towards Vocal Humanoid Robot: WT-5





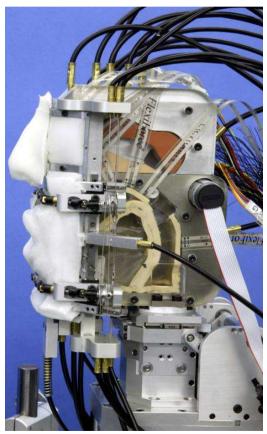


Human Vocal Organs

Kotaro Fukui Team

Jump!

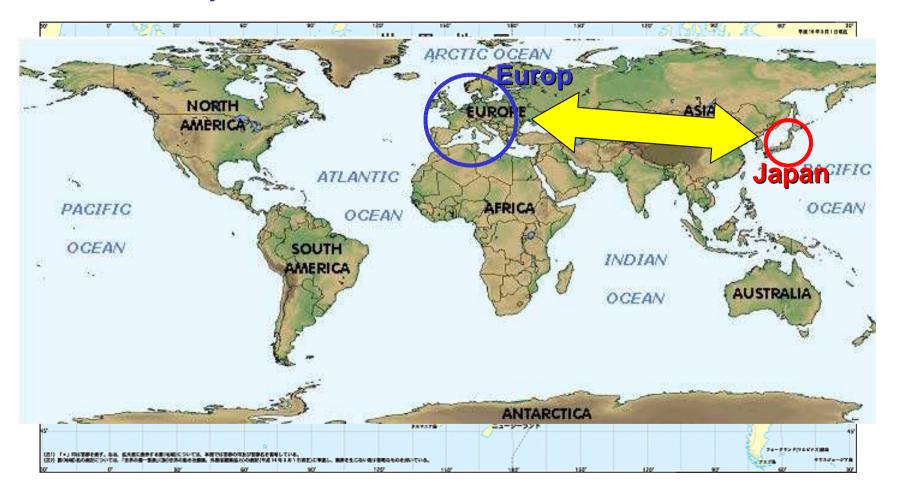
Robot Vocal Organs



The Two Regions:

WASEDA UNIV.

Far Away Each Other in Distance and in Culture







High Social Acceptability of Robots in Japan

- Acceptability of Humanoids/Animaloids
 - Feel/Accept Life-likeness through the Robots which Mimics Humans and Animals
- Social Acceptability depends on Religious and Cultural Backgrounds
 - Western Countries (Monotheism) and Japan/Asian Countries (Animism / Polytheism)
 - Organ Transplantations VS Artificial Organs
- Need of Social Systemic Preparation for Robot Acceptable Society
 - Change of Lows/Regulations to Accept Robots (Special Zone for Robot Test and Experiments in Fukuoka)
 - Licensing/Insurance System
 - Black Chip (Black Box) for Better Life with Robots





The Historically Biggest Robotic

Event in Japan





Recent Humanoids and Animaloids for Human Environment in Japan

- TOYOTA: Partner Robots Performed in Aichi EXPO '05
- SONY: AIBO, SDR-3X (3 years of secret collaboration with Takanishi Lab.), SDR-4X, QRIO
- HONDA: P2, P3, ASIMO
- MITI: HRP-1, HRP-2
- TMSUK/SANYO: T-4, T-5, Banryu-Series (SANYO)
- Kitano Project(ERATO): PINO, PINO2, Morph, etc.
- NEC: R100, PaPeRo
- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries: Wakamaru
- ATR/MHI: Robovie, Robovie-2, Robovie-3
- HITACHI, Etc.

*Differences in Sound Processing in the Brain:



Is Nature a friend to Japanese not to Europeans?

CINGULATE GYRUS PREFRONTAL CORTEX HYPOTHALAMUS AMYGDALA PITUTARY HEPOCAMPUS RAPHE NUCLEI RAPHE NUCLEI	Left Brain (Linguistic Brain)	Right Brain (Musical Brain)
	Logical/ Sequential/ Rational/ Analytical/ Objective/	Random/ Intuitive/ Holistic/ Synthesizing/ Subjective/
\\\	Looks at parts	Looks at wholes
Music/ Musical Instruments/ Machine Sounds/ Noise		Europeans
		Japanese
Listening to Someone's Talk or	Europeans	
Speech	Japanese	
Vowels/ Crying/ Laughing/ Insects/ Animals/ Waves/	Japanese	Europeans
Winds/ Rain/ Streams/ Japanese Musical Instruments/		(Other Asians)

^{*} By Prof. Tadanobu



Onomatopoeia: Japanese Like to Linguistically Express Nature and Mental Conditions?



- Japanese' 12,000 Onomatopoeias VS 3,000 English ones:
 - (bura-bura)-loiter/lounge/ramble/roam/stroll (choko-choko)-trot/waddle (dota-dota)-lumber/stomp/tramp (doshin-doshin)-stomp/trot (noro-noro)-loiter (noso-noso)-lounge (nosso-nosso)-lumber (suta-suta)-hurry (seka-seka)-trot (teku-teku)-tramp/trudge (tobo-tobo)-plot/trudge (yochi-yochi)-toddle/totter/waddle (yota-yoya)-stagger/waddle (yoro-yoro)-stagger

Mental Conditions

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(doki-doki), (hara-hara), (gakkuri), (sukkiri), (sappari), (uji-uji), (netchiri), (hiya-hiya), (ira-ira), (iki-iki), (bikkuri), (shiku-shiku), (biku-biku), (saba-saba), (kippari), (jikkuri), (kitchiri), (mitchiri), (chima-chima), (shin-miri), (etc)
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Buddhist Gods







Human Gods











Fujin/ /God of Winds and Raijin/ /God of Thunders





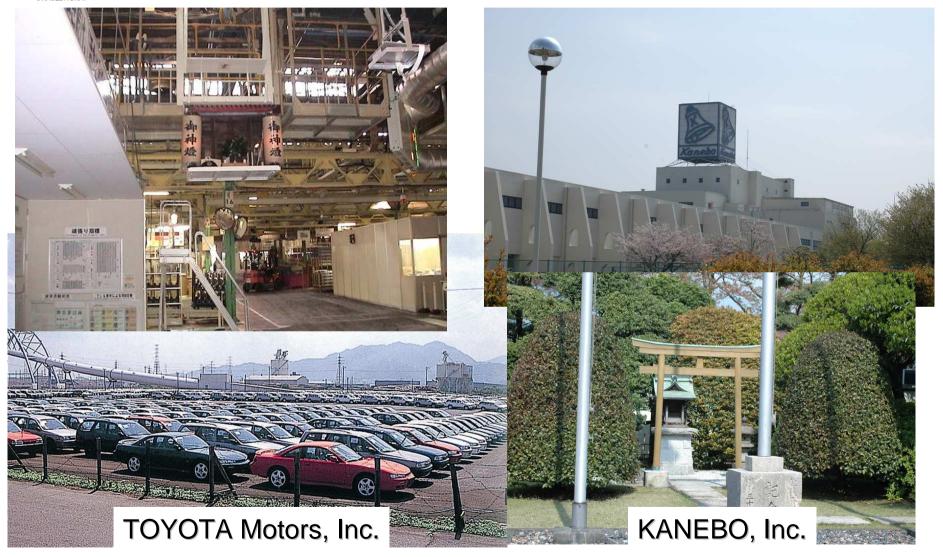
Korin Ogata/

(1658-1716)



Shinto Alters in Factories to Pray for Safety

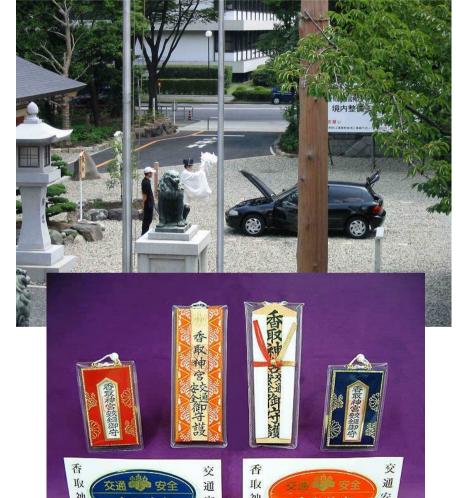






Shinto and Buddhism Pray and Amulets for Car Safety













The Samurai Humanoid KIYOMORI:

A Brother of WABAIN-2 Visited Munakata Shrine Prayed for the Safety of All the Robots in the World







Biped Robot That Can Carry a Human: WL-16



(Collaboration with TMSUK)









WL-16 Becomes to Carry Everyone







WL-16 Even Carries the President of TMSUK!

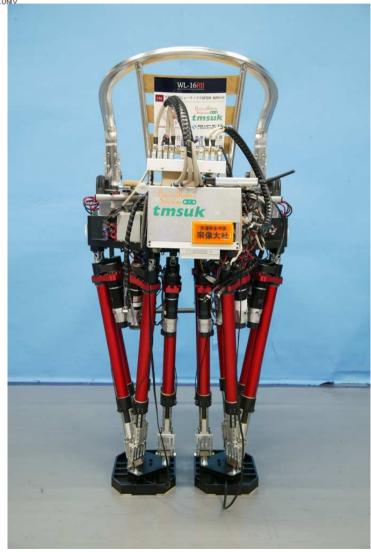






WL-16 also Puts Safety Amulet











Mottainai(): 3R = Reduce+Reuse+Recycle





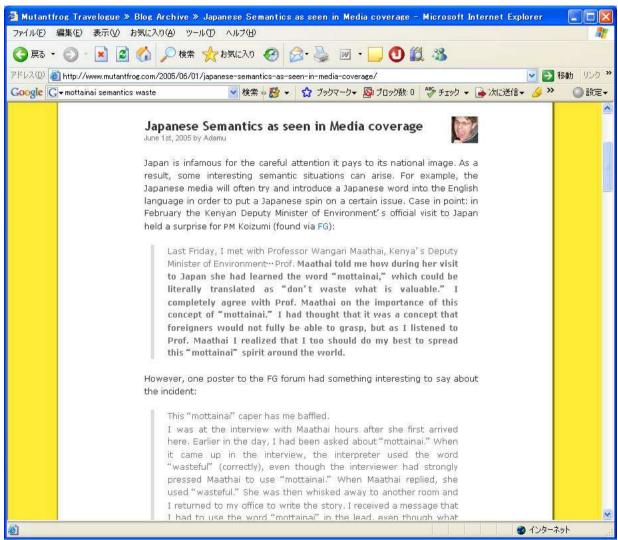


Wangari Muta Maathai (born April 1, 1940) was born in Ihithe village, Tetu division, Nyeri District of Kenya. Maathai is an environmental and political activist. In 2004 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace"—the first African woman to receive the award.



Some Criticisms: Mottainai = Waste!





When I first heard that Kenyan say that, all I could think of was... YOU TWAT! As if a few new words suddenly shed an entirely new cultural insight into something!

Mottainai——is nothing special, it's just an expression the same as "What a waste" in English. There is no deep, spiritual, East Asian meaning to the word.

Enough already!

Certain Japanese people need to learn that they're not going to score any points in the world by trying to force lame, propagandistic terms into the English language.



No!, because *Mottainai* >> Waste



- Japanese treat anything in the universe as if it has a soul inside which may have strong relations to the fact that Japanese use the left brain for natural sound recognition and have large vocabulary of onomatopoeias.
- We cannot treat them less worthily (rudely / roughly / impolitely) or even too-worthily (too-goodly / too-muchly) because we are no more than they are and even some of them become a god.
- We say *Mottainai* if someone treats them rudely / roughly / impolitely or even too-goodly / too-muchly.
- *Mottainai* is something much more than Waste to Japanese which makes the society to be highly ecological and highly friendly to anything including artificial ones.



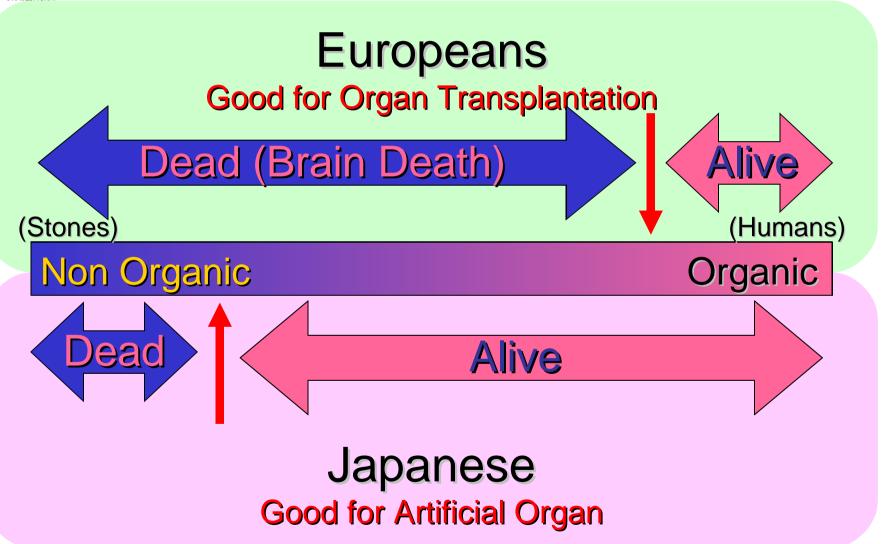






Dead or Alive?





Special Zone for Robot Test and Development in Fukuoka:



Change of Traffic Law Enabling Robots to Move on Public Roads







next are for Easy Usage of Radio Waves for Robots and for Robotic Medicine, etc.



Robot Experiments in the Special Zone for Robot Test and Development in Fukuoka







The Law Extends Nation Wide Approved by Japanese Parliament on March 29, 2005.









SF Manga Writer Reiji Matsumoto

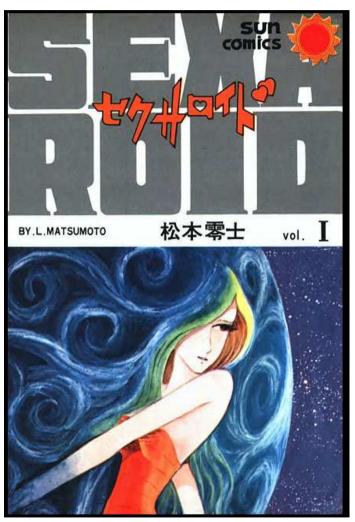


Reiji Matsumoto



Bad, are those Humanoid Robots? Sexaroid = Robot + Sex









Commercial Figure sold in AKIBA



Sexdolls may become Sexaroid? Maybe, Most Considerable Ethical Problem in Japan?



Too much dependency of young Japanese on those robots may break their healthy mental development to be an adult.



