

Editorial

This issue contains papers describing the Trans-Pacific Demonstrations (TPD). These demonstrations were conceived and planned at the JUSTSAP (Japan-US Science, Technology & Space Applications Program) meetings held 11–17 November 2000 in Hawaii between space scientists and engineers from Japan and the US. One of the founding fathers of JUSTSAP was Dr. Burton Edelson. He also helped stimulate and strongly supported the TPD efforts. I am deeply sorry to inform our readers that Dr. Edelson died on 6 January 2002. One could fill this volume with his contributions and accomplishments in space communications. Suffice it to say, that from the earliest days of space communications in the 1960's, when Commander Edelson was still on active duty, he played an im-

portant role. Later at Comsat Labs, first as Assistant Director and then as Director and as a Vice-President of Comsat Corporation, and later at NASA (for example, the ACTS program) he continued to be a major influence on the developments in space communications. After his retirement he continued his active participation through his work at the Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities. I worked with Burt Edelson at Comsat and grew to know him as my boss, colleague, mentor and friend. He will be sorely missed.

Geoffrey Hyde