



Preface

The 15th international symposium on olefin metathesis and related chemistry (ISOM XV) was held on 28 July–1 August 2003 in Kyoto, Japan. This symposium followed the 14 previous meetings held 11 times in Europe and three times in USA. Thus, ISOM XV was the first ever symposium held in Asia among the series of ISOM. The previous series of ISOM contributed enormously to the exchange of momentous information among the chemists in the pertinent research fields and mainly in Europe and USA. Therefore, ISOM XV has considerable significance in this respect that many scientists in Asia and Japan joined this engrossing meeting for the first time in addition to European and American colleagues.

About 180 people from 15 different countries participated in ISOM XV. The participants included about 125 Japanese and 55 people from abroad, comprising 38 people from companies, 92 from academe, and 50 students, which indicates that a variety of people attended this conference. Eight special lectures, 20 invited lectures, and 14 contributed lectures were delivered along with the presentation of 66 poster papers.

Olefin metathesis plays a role of paramount importance in the fields of organometallic chemistry, organic synthesis, and polymer synthesis. For instance, many metal carbenes are now synthesized and employed as catalysts in organometallic chemistry. In organic synthesis, ring-closing metathesis often serves as an otherwise impossible means in total synthesis of many important compounds. Furthermore, well-defined transition metal catalysts are crucial from the viewpoint of polymer synthesis, and research in this direction is gaining tremendous momentum. ISOM XV auspiciously provided a forum to present the most recent findings of utmost importance in the world regarding these chemistries. Especially, the development of ruthenium carbenes attracted ample attention in this conference.

The organizing committee of ISOM XV decided to publish the proceedings of this conference, and chose Professor Ozawa, Professor Mashima, Professor Masuda, and Professor Basset as editors. The editors agreed with Elsevier Science to publish the proceedings of this symposium as a special issue of *Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemistry* in the same way as the previous one, and invited all of the invited speakers to submit a paper which should be a review based on author's own recent work or a regular paper. It was intended that this proceedings would be published as soon as possible after the conference but hopefully around spring, 2004. This obliged the authors to submit the papers at the conference site or just after the symposium. Nevertheless, many of the invited speakers accepted our editors' invitation, and contributed excellent papers. The editors would like to express their sincere appreciation to all the contributors of papers.

The Guest Editors for the Special Issue of JMC:

Professor Fumiyuki Ozawa (Osaka City University, Japan), Editor-in-Chief.

Professor Kazushi Mashima (Osaka University, Japan).

Professor Toshio Masuda (Kyoto University, Japan)

Professor Jean-Marie Basset (CNRS, France).

October 2003,
On behalf of the editors

Toshio Masuda (Chairman of ISOM XV)

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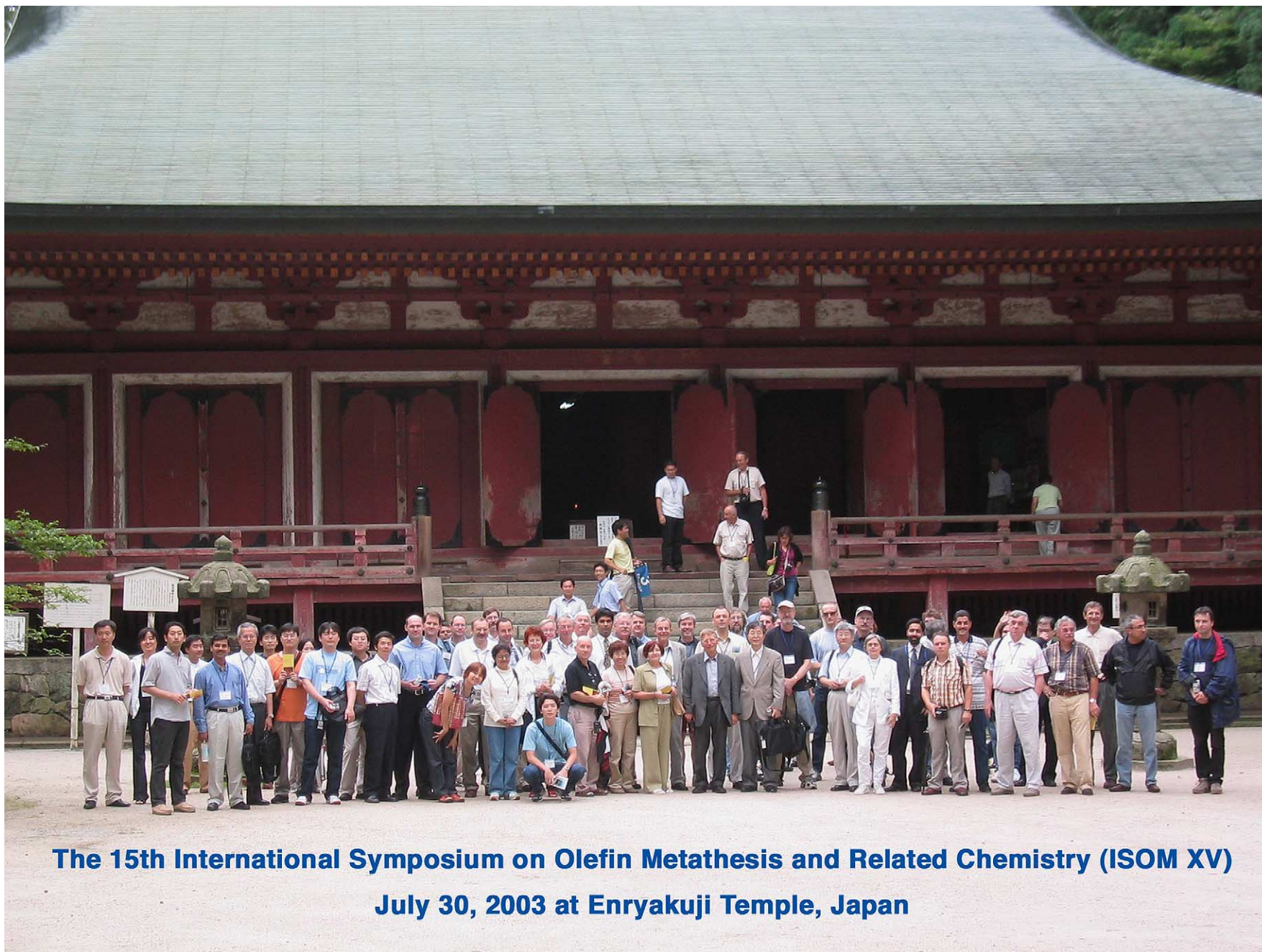
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