



## Conference report

### 9th Japanese Symposium on the Chemistry of Biocatalysis, 26–27 January 2006, Otsu, Japan

The picturesque shore of Lake Biwa hosted the most recent incarnation of this now well-established meeting that focused on all aspects of biocatalysis. The more than 115 participants came from diverse backgrounds including chemistry, microbiology, molecular biology and engineering and included industrial scientists, faculty, students and postdoctoral fellows. Professor Hideo Hirohara of The University of Shiga Prefecture did an outstanding job in organizing this meeting, which included eight invited oral presentations and more than 50 posters.

Continuing a tradition of internationalization begun five years ago, several of the presentations were given in English. Professor Karl Hult of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm gave two such lectures in addition to those given by Professor Inn-Ho Tsai of the National Taiwan University and my own. In addition, poster presenters were required to give 1 min summaries – in English – of their work prior to each afternoon's poster session. These oral presentations, along with the abstracts (all

of which are included here) provided an excellent overview of their work and allowed for very fruitful discussions during the poster sessions. It is clear that this meeting series is becoming increasingly important in the transnational field of biocatalysis and international participation will certainly grow.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Professor Hiromichi Ohta (Keio University) for arranging a fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science that allowed me to attend this meeting, and to present lectures at many other universities. I would also like to thank my hosts at these universities for their warm hospitality. I came to Japan with many friends; I left with many more.

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