

Guest editorial

The CRC International Symposium on Photochemistry at Interfaces, pc@if, was held on August 9–11, 2002 at Hokkaido University Conference Hall, Sapporo, Japan. This symposium was the thirteenth annual international symposium of the Catalysis Research Center (CRC) of Hokkaido University and was sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of the Japanese Government. The Research Institute for Catalysis at Hokkaido University, the original institute of the CRC, was founded in 1943, renamed the CRC in May 1989, and expanded in April 1998. The CRC is the only research center in Japan that specializes in catalysis. The CRC consists of three major sections with nine research laboratories. With the spread of catalysis research to a wide range of studies in science and technology, research projects in various fields, such as inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, coordination chemistry, material science, nanotechnology, surface physics and chemistry, spectroscopy, electrochemistry, environmental chemistry, photochemistry and photocatalysis, and, of course, catalysis chemistry, have been initiated in our center. Since 1989, we have held international symposia every year with topics relating to, but not limited to, catalysis. The organizing committee of pc@if, decided to hold symposium in 2002 with the aim of covering the latest developments in the field of photochemistry at interfaces, that is, photochemical, photocatalytic and photoassisted reactions at interfaces between solid-gas, solid-liquid or liquid-liquid, including those at single crystals as well as particles and thin films. For participants' convenience, the period of symposium was set just after the 14th International Conference on Photochemical Conversion and Storage of Solar Energy (IPS-14), which was held also in Sapporo and covered overlapping research areas.

In pc@if, 20 invited lectures and 23 poster presentations (Final program is available online at "http://www.hucc.hokudai.ac.jp/~k15391/pcatif/".) were given, and more than 80 researchers from 14 different countries participated in the presentations and discussion for 3 days. About half of the

presentations were related to semiconductor photocatalysis using mainly titania powders and thin films, reflecting a research trend in photochemistry, but other important topics including, for example, dye-sensitized solar cells, photochemistry at the surfaces of ice and snow, and photoinduced deposition of metal in a nanometer regime were also reported. As the organizing committee had expected, all of the presentations were just within the range of *photochemistry at interfaces*, but very animated discussion for each presentations, without strict time limit even for oral presentations, did not, at least we think, incline to be a narrow one, as has often been seen in symposia on specialized topics. Thus, as we had not expected before the symposium, it might be recognized by the participants that the meaning of *interface* is not only an interface between solid-gas, solid-liquid or liquid-liquid but also between academic fields; *photochemistry* is now expanding and growing by making new *interfaces* with other research fields.

Since we wanted to open the presentations and discussion in pc@if to all the scientists working in the *interfaces*, the organizing committee consulted Professor Hiroshi Masuhara, Asian Editor of this journal, and his kind efforts and the cooperation of Elsevier enabled us to publish this special issue. As Guest Editor, I would like to thank all of the authors who accepted the invitation to submit original papers in this special issue for pc@if and hope that this issue will contribute the development of photochemistry at *interfaces*.

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