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# Journal of Power Sources

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## Preface

The 4th International Conference on Polymer Batteries and Fuel Cells (PBFC2009) was held in Yokohama from August 2 to 6, 2009. After very successful meetings on Jeju Island, Korea (PBFC2003), in Las Vegas (PBFC2005), and in Rome (PBFC2007), the PBFC community met once again in Yokohama to discuss the scientific and technological progress in this field. PBFC2009 drew 333 active participants from 16 countries and regions (182: Japan; 101: South Korea; 9: USA; 7: Poland; 7: Taiwan; 5: France; 4: Australia; 4: Austria; 4: Germany; 3: Sweden; 2: Italy; 1: Canada; 1: Russia; 1: Switzerland; 1: Thailand; 1: China). The participants appeared to be satisfied with the scientific level of this conference, for which I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the participants. The total number of the contributions to the conference was 242 (58, containing 6 keynote lectures, presented orally and 184 as posters).

PBFC2009 certainly provided a forum for the discussion of recent advances in materials and devices for energy storage and conversion, such as lithium (ion) secondary batteries, electrochemical capacitors, and polymer electrolyte fuel cells. Special emphasis was laid on organic and polymeric materials, including polymer electrolytes and electrodes, ionic liquids, polymer gel electrolytes, conducting polymers, and carbonaceous materials, that affect the performance, safety, and durability of these devices. The presentations covered basic and applied researches on materials, control of nanostructures, reactions at electrochemical interface, and fabrication of devices.

The conference was held in a friendly atmosphere. The beautiful scenery of Yokohama Seaport and Piers, which could be seen from the conference site "Yokohama Symposia", continued to relax the participants. Test drives of electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles were specially arranged for the participants by the kind offers from Nissan Motor and Kanagawa Prefectural Government. In the conference banquet, Dr. Akira Yoshino, a principle inventor of lithium ion batteries, proposed a toast to all of the participants. The next

conference will be chaired by Dr. Khalil Amine, Argonne National Laboratory, and will be held in Chicago from July 31 to August 4, 2011.

On behalf of the international organizing committee, I would like to acknowledge the generous financial support of PBFC2009 provided by societies, agencies, and foundations (Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development, U.S. Army International Technology Center-Asia, Office of Naval Research Global, The Committees of Battery Technology and Capacitor Technology of the Electrochemical Society of Japan, The Society of Polymer Science, Japan, Inoue Foundation for Science, Tokyo Ohka Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Technology, The Murata Science Foundation, The Ogasawara Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Engineering, The Kajima Foundation, The Kao Foundation for Arts and Sciences, Yokohama Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Yokohama National University). Sincere thanks are due to the local organizing committee members and the students of our laboratory who all contributed to a successful and enjoyable meeting.

Here we could publish the Proceedings of PBFC2009. I would like to thank Dr. Moseley who served as coordinating editor of this special issue and all of the manuscript reviewers who have helped to maintain the quality of this special issue. I am also indebted to the production staff of *J. Power Sources* for their efforts to publish this volume within the agreed time schedule.

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