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Preface

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Preface

A Japan-U.S. Seminar entitled "Unsolved Problems in Ionic Polymerization" was held at the Fuji-View Hotel near Lake Kawakuchi on October 15-19, 1974, under the cosponsorship of the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Judging from the comments of all the participants, it was a highly successful meeting.

This was the first Japan-U.S. Seminar on Polymer Synthesis.

The organization of this meeting was inspired by a meeting in Kyoto in 1967 after the IUPAC Symposium for Macromolecules in Tokyo/Kyoto and by an International Colloquium on Polymer Synthesis held in Amherst in 1971 after the IUPAC Symposium for Macromolecules in Boston.

Other Japan-U.S. Seminars concerned with Polymer Science and Engineering have been held in the past in Polymer Physics, Rheology, and Morphology. I would like to acknowledge the advice that we received from Professor R. S. Stein and Professor S. Onogi from their experience in arranging a successful U.S.-Japan Seminar.

It was, however, the determination and dedication of Professor J. Furukawa, Professor Saegusa, and Professor Hayashi with the able assistance of Dr. Kiji and Dr. Ito which made the Seminar possible. In less than 2 months time the location was selected; requests for preprints, biographical sketches, and full papers were distributed; the preprints and biographical sketches were printed, bound, and ready for distribution at the meeting.

In the meantime, all participants were alerted and timetables for the United States participants in Japan were arranged and firmed up. Special thanks are due to Professor J. P. Kennedy who cooperated with me in the organization of the meeting but, because of unforeseen circumstances, was unable to attend the Seminar. His spirit, however, was very much in evidence during the meeting.

We also acknowledge the help of Dr. B. Bartocha, Dr. E. O'Connell, Dr. M. Cziesla, and Mrs. L. Trent of the National Science Foundation.

The Seminar was held in a remote location which provided very close interaction between the individual participants. The time was equally divided between presentation and discussion; this was only possible because of the limited number of participants. Emphasis was placed on the "Unsolved Problems" in the individual presentation. New acquaintances and friendships were developed and established relations were reinforced.

We all left the Seminar with a sense of accomplishment and deep satisfaction.

O. Vogl
Co-Chairman (U.S.)
Japan-U.S. Seminar