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Preface

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Preface

The U.S.-Japan Seminar on Polymer Synthesis on Functional Polymers was held at Pingree Park, Colorado (a campus of the State University of Colorado) August 20-24, 1978, under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

The Seminar was held at a beautiful location, 3,000 miles high in the Rocky Mountains, approachable only by fearless drivers and motivated scientists after about 90 minutes of heavy bumping on a winding dirt road. The remoteness and serenity of the location greatly contributed to maximum interaction between participants and cross-fertilization of ideas. Many future scientific projects must have been conceived during the long discussions in the meeting room and following strolls in the beautiful scenery.

This was the second U.S.-Japan Seminar on Polymer Synthesis. The first was held in 1974 in Hakone, Japan and dealt with unsolved problems in ionic polymerization. The present seminar focused on functional polymers, a most important, rapidly growing segment of contemporary polymer science. Functional polymers embrace all macromolecules possessing functionalities, whether attached covalently or by complexation, specific groups or varieties of groups, affecting or imparting chemical, biological, electrical, physical, mechanical properties, etc. The topics concerned the synthesis, properties, and possible applications of select functional polymers presently under intensive study in the U.S. and Japan, e.g., polymeric drugs, polymeric UV adsorbers, chelating polymers, polymeric oxygen carriers, polymeric catalysts, ion-containing polymers, polymeric reagents. Fundamentals of synthesis and derivatization of functional polymers were also discussed.

We thank Professors J. Furukawa of Kyoto and O. Vogl of Massachusetts, the organizers of the First Japan-U.S. Polymer Seminar on Polymer Synthesis for valuable advice and help in organizing the second seminar. We also wish to express our heartfelt thanks to

Professor J. Stille for helping us with arrangements in Colorado. His efforts greatly contributed to the success of our Seminar.

The pleasant reception given for the participants by the Faculty of the Chemistry Department of the Colorado State University was much appreciated. Last but not least we gratefully acknowledge contributions by the following organizations without whose help this Seminar could not have been held: National Science Foundation, Allied Chemical Corp., American Hoechst Corp., Celanese Research Co., Dow Chemical U.S.A., Dynapol Co., E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Co., Exxon Research and Engineering Co., General Electric, Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp., Stauffer Chemical Co., The Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Union Carbide Corp., and Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science.

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