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Preface

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Preface

These issues consists of the full papers presented at the Japan-U.S. Seminar which was held from October 17-20, 1983 in Osaka, Japan on the theme "Synthesis and Reactions of Oligomers and End-Reactive Polymers". The seminar was supported jointly by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the U.S. National Science Foundation.

This was the third such bilateral seminar in polymer synthesis. The first seminar entitled "Unsolved Problems in Ionic Polymeriation" was held in 1974 in Japan (Fuji-Hakone), and the second, "Functional Polymers", in 1978 in the United States (Pingree Park, Colorado).

This third seminar under the cochairmanship of K. Hayashi and J.K. Stille, was attended by 23 Japanese scientist (11 speakers from Universities and 12 observers from industry) and 12 U.S. scientists (9 speakers and 3 observers from Universities and industry). Attendance at the seminar was limited in order to stimulate discussion and promote the exchange of information.

The theme of this seminar "Synthesis and Reactions of Oligomers and End-Reactive Polymers", is an important emerging area of polymer chemistry. The synthesis of oligomers having reactive end groups at one or both ends are essential for certain methods of preparation of block and graft copolymers having well-defined structures. The synthesis and evaluation of these structurally defined copolymers can lead to a better understanding of structure-property relationships. In addition, the synthesis of these oligomers uncovers a new generation of functional block and graft copolymers.

The synthesis of oligomers and end reactive polymers serves as starting materials for a variety of "specialty polymers", including high performance engineering plastics, coatings, adhesives, and elastomers, as well as photographic and electronic materials. Thus, one of the goals of this seminar was to adhesives, and elastomers, as well as photographic and electronic materials. Thus, one of the goals of this seminar was to emphasize the need for new synthetic methodology which could be used in the preparation of novel oligomers and end reactive polymers.

We hope these special issues contribute to the progress of research in polymer materials both by the science they have advanced and by that which they stimulate.

In addition to acknowledging support from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the National Science Foundation, we wish to thank American Cyanamid, BASF Wyandotte, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., General Electric, Goodyear and Hercules for their generous contributions.

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