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Preface

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PREFACE

The First International Polymer Symposium on Polymers from Natural Sources - **PNS-95** was held from January 26 to 28, 1995, in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was organized by the Division of Polymer Science of the Chemical Society of Vietnam and the National Center for Science and Technology, Nghia Do - Tu Liem, Hanoi, Vietnam.

The meeting was sponsored by the Pacific Polymer Federation and was supported by the Society of Polymer Science, Japan, The Polymer Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Special sponsorship was provided by the Chemical Society of Vietnam, the Vietnam National Center for Natural Science and Technology (Institute of Materials Science, Institute of Chemistry), The Vietnam National Program for Fundamental Research, and the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation.

It was the objective of this Symposium to promote interactions among polymer scientists from various countries of the Pacific Region and to provide a special opportunity for scientists to meet each other and to stimulate discussions on recent scientific developments. The Symposium was designed to promote mutual understanding and closer international ties and friendship among the participants with special emphasis on the possibilities developing in polymer science in Indochina and in Vietnam. It was expected that future links should emerge among individuals and among organizations of the region and of the Pacific basin.

The scientific program of the Symposium consisted of more than 50 invited lectures, oral presentations, and posters. Several leaders in the polymer field from such countries as Japan, the United States, Australia, France, China, and Malaysia attended. The sponsorship of the Pacific Polymer Federation and the Chemical Society have made this Symposium possible. The First International Polymer Symposium on Polymers from Natural Sources was a milestone to demonstrate the scientific development in Vietnam.

In this special issue of the *Journal of Macromolecular Science—Pure and Applied Chemistry* we are presenting selected papers that were presented at the First International Polymer Symposium on Polymers from Natural Sources. We are also printing the abstracts of oral and poster presentations to provide a flavor of the effort that is being pursued in this part of the world. Natural sources must be a

primary objective for research and development in Vietnam at this time. Of particular interests are *natural products* as raw materials, *natural rubber*, *cellulosic materials*, *products that enhance oil recovery*, and *blends, especially those that contain natural products as blending materials.*

June 1995

Otto Vogl
Dang Van Luyen