

Preface

This special volume of *J. Organomet. Chem.* is a compilation of research results from the national research project entitled 'The Chemistry of Interelement Linkage' headed by K. Tamao and supported by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Priority Areas under the program of The Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Japan, during 3 academic years 1997–1999. The project has been focused on the Main Group Elements, i.e. the first systematic and generalized research project on the chemistry of the 'Interelement Linkage', which has been introduced as a new general term for chemical bonds such as mutual linkages within the heavy main group elements and linkages between the main group elements and the transition metals. The following four topics have been investigated: 'Interelement saturated linkages' (group leader: Kohei Tamao), 'interelement unsaturated linkages' (group leader: Masaaki Yoshifuji), 'Linkages between main group elements and transition metals' (group leader: Fumiyuki Ozawa), and 'Development of new functions of the interelement linkages' (group leader: Tamejiro Hiyama). In the final year, 83 Japanese chemists have joined the project as research members and 74 of them have contributed to this special issue. It should be mentioned that some papers deal with no organometallic compounds but only organoheteroatom compounds such as P–P, P–S, S–S, S–Se, and I–F compounds. We hope that this situation may be acceptable to the readers of this Journal, because many heavy main group elements have common chemical features regardless of metal or non-metal. The papers in this issue have been arranged roughly in the order of the above four topics. We are convinced that the results reported from our research project will make an important contribution to the chemistry of interelement linkage which has been growing rapidly in recent years world wide and provide some innovative basic ideas for molecular designs, thus promising a great impact on a variety of fields.

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