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KIT International Workshop on the Physics of Pattern Formation

Kitakyushu, Japan, 18-20 September 1992

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MEETING REPORTS

KIT International Workshop on the Physics of Pattern Formation

Kitakyushu, Japan, 18-20 September 1991

Conference Summary from Peter Palffy-Muhoray, Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, USA.

The KIT International Workshop on the Physics of Pattern Formation in Complex Dissipative Systems was held in Kitakyushu, Japan from 18-20 September 1991. The meeting was organised by Shoichi Kai of the Kyushu Institute of Technology. This meeting was the second in an informal series; the first was a mini-workshop on "Pattern Forming Instabilities in Liquid Crystals" organised by Lorenz Kramer and Walter Zimmermann of the University of Bayreuth in 1989. The enthusiasm of the participants at the Bayreuth meeting led to the decision to continue a workshop in this area every two years, and Shoichi Kai had agreed to organise the workshop in 1991.

The Kitakyushu meeting had a broader focus and more participants than its predecessor. The topics presented at the meeting involved pattern forming

phenomena in a broad class of physical systems, not only in liquid crystals. There were 30 participants from abroad representing 9 countries and 88 participants from within Japan. The conference took place in the modern and beautiful facilities of the Kitakyushu International Conference Centre situated on the waterfront near the harbour; accommodation for visitors was provided in the nearby Chisan Hotel.

The topics discussed ranged from electroconvective and magnetic field induced patterns in liquid crystals, interfacial dynamics, nonlinear waves, disclinations and defect mediated turbulence, convective instabilities, viscous fingering, the behaviour of biological systems, excitable systems, to erosion and the effects of noise on evolving patterns. There were 32 oral and 50 poster presentations.

Astonishingly beautiful visualisations of turbulence using encapsulated cholesterics were presented in the talk entitled "Turbulence in a box" by Albert Libchaber. In addition to the liquid crystal related topics, results on a very broad range of topics were given; with computer simulations, videotapes and photographs providing vivid illustrations. It is planned to have the Proceedings published by World Scientific in March 1992.

The Conference banquet took place on a cruise ship which sailed between the islands of Honshu and Kyushu. The next conference, to be held in 1993, is currently being planned. For additional information contact: Shoichi Kai, Department of Electrical Engineering, Kyushu Institute of Technology, Tobata, Kitakyushu 804, Japan.

IV International Topical Meeting on Optics of Liquid Crystals

Cocoa Beach, Florida, USA, 7-11 October 1991

Conference Summary from David W Allender, Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Kent Ohio, USA

After three sessions held in Italy, The Optics of Liquid Crystals Meeting moved to the United States for the first time.

The fourth conference in this series, OLC '91, chaired jointly by P Palffy-Muhoray and M J Soileau, was held at the holiday Inn, Cocoa Beach, Florida, from October 7-11. Approximately 70 scientists from 11 countries attended, with the largest contingents coming from Italy, The Soviet Union, Germany and the USA.

Twelve invited lectures were given by: E Santamato, P Sheng, B Turke, I Janossy, K Singer, A Garito, H Finkelmann, G

Durand, F Aliev, J Patel, V Krivoschokov and A Saupe. There were an additional 26 oral presentations and approximately 50 posters were displayed.

The topics discussed spanned the gamut of optical phenomena in liquid crystals with special emphasis focusing on nonlinear behaviour (such as the optical Fredericksz transition and second and third order susceptibilities of both low molecular weight and polymeric liquid crystals) and surface and confinement effects. Papers submitted to the conference will appear in a special volume of Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

after undergoing the usual refereeing procedures.

Social highlights of the conference included a tour of the Kennedy Space Center, an evening barbecue on the deck along the beach and finally (continuing a tradition begun at Cetraro, Italy) a post-midnight swim in the surf.

The V International Topical Meeting on the Optics of Liquid Crystals will be held in Budapest, in October 1993. The chairman is Dr Istvan Janossy, of the Central Research Institute of Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.