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The Japanese Association of Liquid Crystal Scientists (JALCS)

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Society NEWS

The Japanese Association of Liquid Crystal Scientists (JALCS)

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The Japanese Association of Liquid Crystal Scientists (JALCS) was established in April 1994 as a forum for liquid crystal scientists. The primary objective of JALCS is to promote liquid crystal research and assist in the activities of liquid crystal scientists, particularly those young scientists who will lead the research of the years of 2000 and beyond. To accomplish this purpose, JALCS is conducting the following activities:

(1) Liquid Crystal Symposium: This one-day symposium is held in conjunction with the Liquid Crystal Conference (cf., *Liquid Crystals Today*, 3, 7 (1993)). As illustrated in Figure 1, the Conference has expanded its scope and size throughout the years (the 1994 meeting accumulated 600 participants and 200 contributed papers). In contrast to the Conference, which covers a whole range of topics about liquid crystal sciences, the Symposium specifically focuses on the most recent and important advances in liquid crystal research. The programme is carefully organized and is limited to a number of invited lectures that illustrate the future trends and prospects of research. The first Symposium was held in September 1994 with 280 participants on 'The LCD Technology of the 21st Century'.

(2) Summer School: This three-day summer school is an open university for students and junior researchers where they can meet and discuss with leading scientists in the field. The first school was held in July 1995, with more than 100 participants. The school curriculum consisted of lectures, poster sessions and discussion hours.

(3) Tutorial Seminars: These are small but frequent lecture courses that cover various subjects from basic to advanced liquid crystal sciences. Topics included are introduction to liquid crystals, fundamentals of LCD technologies, emerging fields of liquid crystals, and they fulfill an increasing demand from academic, industrial researchers and students.

Another important function of JALCS is to serve the liquid crystal community as a centre for information exchange. Information is the life-blood of a community, and it should be distributed swiftly and frequently: JALCS is trying to bring this important requisite for the community into reality by establishing a new communication style based on the e-mail system. The JALCS information system consists of a newsletter, the LC-net and a world-wide-web homepage: JALCS-WWW.

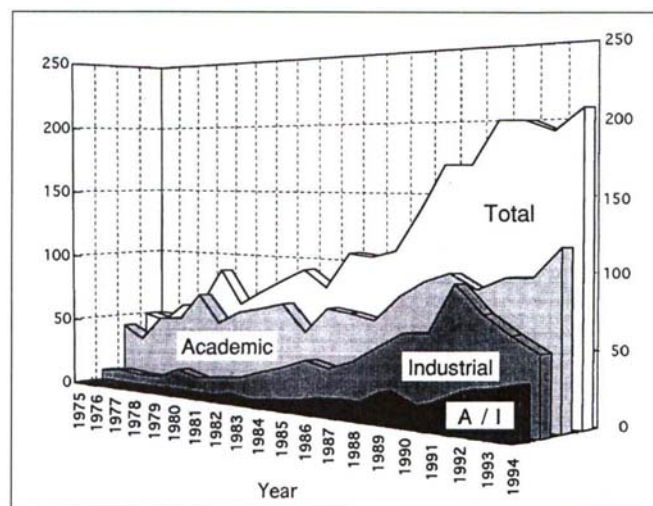


Figure 1. Increase in the number of papers presented at The Japanese Liquid Crystal Conference.

(4) JALCS NEWS: The newsletter includes a wide variety of information about the society's affairs, meetings, events, etc. is published quarterly and distributed to more than 800 liquid crystal researchers.

(5) LC-net: The above and other continually up-dated related information is available through an e-mail system 'LC-net'. However, LC-net is not merely a one-way broadcasting system, but it is open to all members as a forum for discussion, inquiry, announcement and information exchanges. Since we started LC-net a year ago with only 20 members, the number of participating members has increased quite rapidly to more than 250 within this short period of time. We consider this as an indication of our members' appreciation of the new information system and decided to take one more step forward.

(6) JALCS-WWW: A World-Wide Web (WWW) homepage was opened in April 1995 to reinforce the JALCS information network. Most of the files listed in JALCS-WWW are written in Japanese, since they are primarily intended to benefit our own members. However, some other files include English information and they can readily be opened to the international liquid crystal community. Included among them is a monthly list of liquid crystal articles that have appeared in scientific journals ('LC bibliography'), and we are now working to install a 'conference database' that contains information such as the titles, author names, their addresses and abstracts of papers presented at domestic and some international liquid crystal conferences. We believe that these database files can contribute not only to Japanese but also to international liquid crystal scientists.

All these JALCS activities are supported by the voluntary work of the members (consequently, participation to JALCS is free) and we are happy to invite all international liquid crystal scientists to take advantage of using the JALCS-WWW information database and to join JALCS. The address of the JALCS-WWW server is

<http://kndo-www.ch.kagu.sut.ac.jp/JALCS>

and those who might want to communicate with JALCS and/or its members can send a message to

JALCS-admin@kndo.ch.kagu.sut.ac.jp

to establish a connection.

The 18th International Liquid Crystal Conference will be held in Japan in the year 2000, and all members of the Japanese liquid crystal community are happy and honoured to be able to host this meeting, which will have special significance for both Japanese and international liquid crystal communities. JALCS will make all possible efforts to ensure the success of this conference and so contribute to the progress of liquid crystal research in the 21st century, which will be inaugurated by this 18th ILCC Japan meeting.

Inter-regional Liquid Crystal Society 'Sodruzhestvo' (*'Commonwealth'*)

Contribution from V. G. Chigrinov

Problems of scientific and industrial co-operation in the field of Liquid Crystals were partially solved in the countries of the former Soviet Union by creating the Inter-regional Liquid Crystal Society 'Sodruzhestvo' on 29 January, 1992. The Society now unites 245 members including 25 well known scientists from western countries. The main aim of the Society is to promote a high level of co-operation in liquid crystal research and development. Another important purpose is to make liquid crystals attractive to young researchers, engineers and postgraduate students. At present traditional contacts in CIS countries are weak not only on the international level but also inside each country, but without free exchange of ideas and results a scientific community will not survive.

The President of this new Society is Victor Titov who was General Director of the Organic Intermediates & Dyes Institute (NIOPIK). Victor Titov is Professor of Chemistry and a full Member of Engineer Sciences and Informatization Academies of Russia, winner of two prestige State Awards in liquid crystals and their applications in the former USSR. He always combines his scientific activity with very important and useful organizational work. Thus for the benefit of the Liquid Crystal Community in CIS he organized the scientific Society 'Sodruzhestvo' which was registered by the Russian Ministry of Justice on 21 August, 1992 (Certificate No. 1193). Another very intensive and energetic contribution to the creation of the new Liquid Crystal Society was made by the scientific secretary of the Society Dr Sofia Torgova who is working in NIOPIK as a Senior Researcher in the Chemical LC Laboratory. Her activity and sociability stimulated considerable growth of the Society membership both in CIS countries and outside. Sofia's personal participation at the organization meeting of the Italian Liquid Crystal Society helped establish close relationships between both societies. At present the coordination of the activities such as bilateral conferences and meetings between the two societies is envisaged. Well known Italian scientists such as Professors E. Chiellini, A. Strigazzi, G. Barbero and others are now international members of 'Sodruzhestvo'. An international agreement between the Italian LC Society and 'Sodruzhestvo' was made including the exchange of scientific information, and joint works in LC field. Visits of specialists, postgraduates and students also become possible in the frame of this co-operation. The society 'Sodruzhestvo' publishes a special bulletin *Liquid Crystals Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* which reflects liquid crystal activity in the CIS and abroad.

Correction: Ukrainian Liquid Crystal Society e-mail should be: LCGROUP@lcv.ip.kiev.ua

Members of Sodruzhestvo relaxing at their Conference 'Modern State of Liquid Crystal Science', Moscow, September 1994.

