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Inter-regional Liquid Crystal Society “Sodruzhestvo” (“Commonwealth”)

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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.

