

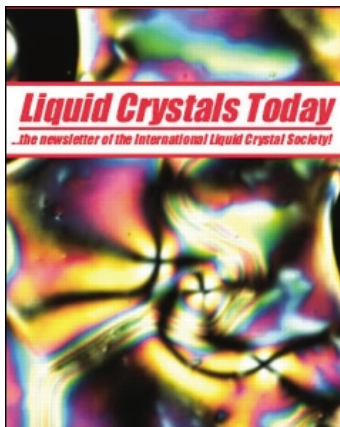
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Access details: *Access Details: Free Access*

Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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## Liquid Crystals Today

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713681230>

## The Japanese Liquid Crystal Society (JLCS)

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**To cite this Article** Toriumi, Hiro and Hasegawa, Masaki(1997) 'The Japanese Liquid Crystal Society (JLCS)', *Liquid Crystals Today*, 7: 2, 12

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/13583149708047671

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13583149708047671>

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# Society NEWS

## The Japanese Liquid Crystal Society (JLCS)

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**T**he Japanese Liquid Crystal Society (JLCS) will be established in September 1997. The purpose of the JLCS is to promote the progress of liquid crystal science and technology towards the 21st century by enhancing interactions among researchers working and studying in various fields of liquid crystals. To accomplish this purpose, the JLCS will conduct the following activities:

1. Organize an annual conference, symposium, summer school, and various seminars
2. Publish the society journal and books.
3. Provide an information database on meetings and liquid crystal articles.
4. Assist information exchange via Internet and WWW homepage.
5. Organize national and international liquid crystal conferences, including the 18th ILCC meeting in 2000 to be held in Sendai, Japan.
6. Explore other possible ways of promoting liquid crystal research.

All of these activities are intended to contribute to the benefit of not only our own members but also members of the international liquid crystal community. For example, an English-language information database on meetings and journal articles ('LC bibliography') will soon be distributed through the JLCS WWW homepage so it can be used by anyone who has access to our web site. Also, the JLCS will affiliate to and support the International Liquid Crystal Society (ILCS). Despite its intense effort on research and development of LCDs, Japan may not have made enough contributions to the activity of the ILCS and international liquid crystal community. For example, the ILCS has only 62 Japanese members as compared with 159 members from the US. With the help and guidance of the new ILCS president Professor Atsuo Fukuda, who is elected from our country, we will execute all possible efforts to increase the

interaction between the JLCS and ILCS. Of course, the JLCS will welcome active participation of individual liquid crystal researchers from other countries and societies.

Here, we will briefly review the background and history of Japanese liquid crystal research activity that has led to the establishment of the JLCS. In 1974, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) established its 142nd Committee on Organic Materials for Information Science. In the following year (1975), the first meeting of the Japanese Liquid Crystal Conference (JLCC: Ekisho Touron-kai) was held with 50 contributed papers, and this conference has steadily expanded its scope and size to have more than 200 papers in recent years. The JSPS 142nd Committee and the JLCC have greatly contributed to the progress of liquid crystal research in Japan over these two decades. Finally, in 1994, the Japanese Association of Liquid Crystal Scientists (JALCS) was established to fulfil the ever-increasing demand for more frequent information exchange and interaction among researchers. As we described earlier (*Liquid Crystals Today*, **5** (3), 11 (1995)), JALCS has experimented with a variety of new ways of information exchange and thus offered an opportunity for researchers to discuss the future of liquid crystal research in the 21st century. These discussions rapidly led to a common recognition of the need to create a bridge between basic and applied research, between academia and industry, and of the necessity of a NEW society. These efforts devoted by several organizations and individual researchers have cleared the way for the establishment of the new society, and led us to form the JLCS this September with just one year's preparation.

As we have stated above, the purpose of the JLCS is to promote both basic and applied research in the field of liquid crystals. However, this is easy to say but is difficult to accomplish, since liquid crystal science has a wide spectrum and strong 'interdisciplinary' characteristics. Thus, an important objective of the JLCS is to include all research efforts in various fields of liquid crystals and integrate them all. In this regard, the JLCS will organize several forums for research on, for example, physics, chemistry, lyotropic and biological systems, polymers, and of course display sciences. While each forum will host an independent workshop, all will participate in the establishment of a new disciplinary science 'liquid-crystallogly' that integrates all aspects of the study on liquid crystals.

The JLCS will become the world's largest national liquid crystal society with an anticipated initial membership of 1000. We are clearly aware of the responsibility that a national society of this size and with high research activity should take, and will make all necessary efforts to promote the progress of liquid crystal science through close collaboration with the ILCS. We expect strong participation of individual liquid crystal researchers from world-wide, and at the earliest possible opportunity we will announce the application procedure through our WWW homepage and via the Internet.