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VII International Conference on Lyotropic Liquid Crystals and Nanomaterials - LLC-2009

S. G. Polushin^a

^a Saint Petersburg State University, Russia

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CONFERENCE REPORT

VII International Conference on Lyotropic Liquid Crystals and Nanomaterials – LLC-2009

During four autumn days from 22 to 25 September the VII International Scientific Conference on Lyotropic Liquid Crystals and Nanomaterials and the symposium 'Achievements in Thermotropic Liquid Crystals Research' were held at Ivanovo State University, Russia (Figure 1). The subjects of the conference included practically all aspects of liquid crystal (LC) science: this year the conference was marked by it being 80 years since the birth of Professor I.G. Chistyakov, the founder of the Liquid Crystals laboratories in IvSU (the Pedagogical Institute at that time) and in the Shubnikov Institute of Crystallography of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow).

There were 170 reports at the conference. They were divided into the following sections: 'Micellar and disperse systems', 'Lyotropic mesomorphism of low-molecular and polymer compounds', 'Achievements in LC polymers research', 'Achievements in thermotropic LC research' and 'Application of LCs, compositional and other nanomaterials'. The scientists from universities and academic institutes from the cities of Central Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ivanovo, Kazan, Samara), from Siberia (Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk), etc. came to Ivanovo.

The work of the International Scientific Conference began with the plenary reports of the numerous foreign participants. K. Praefcke from TU Berlin, T. Bellini from Milan University, I. Dierking from Manchester University, T. Hanasaki from Ritsumeikan University (Japan) and I. Abdulhalim from Ben Gurion University

(Israel) came to Ivanovo by the invitation of the Organisational Committee. Different topics were discussed in their reports, including the fundamental one: 'How spacious can a mesogenic molecule be?', the reporter being K. Praefcke.

The conference sticks in the memory because of some peculiarities. These will be discussed below. It was pleasant to listen to the reports of the several venerable Russian scientists at the conference. Yu.M. Yevdokimov told us about the opportunities of nanostructure creation on the basis of nucleic acids. He was solemnly presented with the Fredericksz Medal before his report. The Russian Liquid Crystals Society 'Commonwealth' rewarded him this medal in 2008. The report of S.A. Pikin was devoted to the physical aspects of structure and functioning helicase as molecular nanomotors. V.P. Shibaev reported on the achievements in the field of multifunctional LC-polymer synthesis. A.S. Sonin presented a review of the new composite materials formed from the stabilised polymer nets of LCs.

The work of the conference was held at the University. This had some positive points, in particular, the fact that the organisational committee could get students' groups from the Physical, Biological and Chemical faculties to take part in the conference. Of course, there were some students and PhD students at the conference, and many of them were awarded with their diplomas and presents at the conference closing. After the conference there were Round Tables where



Figure 1. Conference opening.

younger members had the opportunity to talk to the foreign scientists and teachers and also to practice their English language knowledge.

While summing up at the final session a lot of warm words were addressed to the Conference Organisational Committee – IvSU Nanomaterials Research Institute,

to IvSU Rector, who gave wonderful conditions for the work, and to the reporters who came in spite of all the difficulties of the economic crisis.

S.G. Polushin
Saint Petersburg State University, Russia