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Preface

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PREFACE

The objectives of the first Asian Symposium on 'Organized Molecular Films for Electronics and Photonics' (ASOMF'1) are to achieve international cooperation among researchers both in academia and industries in Asian countries, and to stimulate growth in the field of organized molecular films such as LB films and epitaxially grown films and their application to electronics and photonics. Formerly there have been two bilateral forum/ symposium between Japan, China and/or Korea on organic thin films; that is, China-Japan Bilateral Symposium on Lagmuir-Blodgett Films (CJBSLB) every two years and Korea-Japan Joint Forum (KJF) every year since 1990. Both meetings have attracted a lot of interest among the researchers in these three countries. It has been recognized that there are considerably wide overlaps between the two meetings; then at the 3rd CJBSLB in China in 1994 the organizing committee recommended to expand the meeting for all the Asian countries and for wider topics of not only LB films but organized molecular films and their applications. This is a short story of how ASOMF'1 has been organized.

ASOMF'1 was held in Tsukuba Science City, Ibaraki, Japan, on October 28–30, 1996, and the number of participants was 210 (31 Chinese, 58 Korean, 120 Japanese and 1 Bulgarian). 164 papers were presented at the symposium and 121 of these papers are included in this special issue of Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals peer reviewed. Topics in this volume cover (1) molecular design and film fabrication, (2) novel characterization techniques and SPM, (3) optical and electrical properties of organized molecular films, (4) novel nonlinear optical phenomena and applications, (5) optoelectronics, (6) liquid crystals, (7) chemical reactions and biological aspects of organized molecular films and (8) self-assembling systems.

ASOMF'2 will be held in Beijing in 1998, ASOMF'3 in Korea in 2000, and KJF'97 will be held around the middle of September, 1997, in Kwangju, Korea. It should be noted that the KJF will be kept as a series of bilateral meetings because of their yearly-basis even though ASOMF would be initiated in the future.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to express my great gratitude to all the speakers and participants, and especially to Dr. M. Matsumoto (secretary general) and Drs. K. Yase and F. Nakanishi for their invaluable efforts to arrange the symposium. Financial support from M&BE, JOEM, NIMC, TFCBT (Tsukuba Foundation for Chemical and Bio-Technology), TEXMF (Tsukuba EXPO'85 Memorial Foundation), SPSJ (The Society for Polymer Science, Japan), Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, Biomedical Electronics Society (The Chinese Institute of Electronics), Commission on LB Films (Chinese Chemical Society), National Natural Science Foundation of China, Korea Research Group of Organic Photonics Materials, The Korean Society of Molecular Electronics & Devices, and The Polymer Society of Korea is also greatly appreciated.

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