



# Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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## Guest Editor's Preface

Denis Fichou

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## GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

Organic materials are now a flourishing branch of science and technology with many opportunities for applications in electronics and photonics. Conjugated polymers and small organic dyes are the two most investigated classes of these materials. They combine the electronic and optical properties of inorganic semiconductors with the processing advantages and mechanical plasticity of conventional polymers. These new materials are essentially related to communication technologies and preconceive what could be in the near future the world of "plastic electronics".

The aim of the 3rd Japan-France Joint Forum (JFJF'3) on Organic Materials for Electronics and Photonics was to gather experts of both countries in order to exchange new results and ideas in the field. JFJF'3 was held on April 6-8, 1998, in the Auditorium of the Agency of Industrial Science & Technology MITI, in Tsukuba, Japan. It gathered more than 100 participants from France and Japan but also from Germany and other countries. The conference was opened by Dr. Masaaki Kubota, current General Director of the National Institute of Materials and Chemical Research (NIMC), who described the guidelines of the present and future cooperation between France and Japan. JFJF'3 comes after JFJF'1 (1993, RIKEN, Wako) and JFJF'2 (1995, CNRS, Paris).

Importantly, JFJF'3 was one of the official events of « The Year of France in Japan » inaugurated by the French President Jacques Chirac in April 1998 in Tokyo. This support underlines the importance of bilateral cooperation between Japan and France in the field of advanced materials.

Finally, we wish to thank all the partners who financially supported JFJF'3 to make it a success (Partners: National Institute of Materials and Chemical Research (NIMC), The Institute of Physical & Chemical Research (RIKEN), The Japanese Research Association for Organic Electronics Materials (JOEM), Japanese Applied Physics Society, Division of M&BE, Tsukuba Foundation for Chemical and Bio-Technology (TFCBT), Japan Technology Transfer Association (JTTAS), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Ministere Francais des Affaires Etrangeres (MAE), and Gordon & Breach Science Publishers). The fourth Japan-France Joint Forum (JFJF'4) is scheduled to be held in 2000 in France.

Denis Fichou  
Co-chair of JFJF'3