



Preface

The 14th IUPAC Conference on Chemical Thermodynamics (ICCT-96), held from 25-30 August 1996 in Osaka, Japan, was sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry through Commission I.2 (Thermodynamics) and under the auspices of the Science Council of Japan, the Chemical Society of Japan, the Japan Society of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis, and the Atomic Energy Society of Japan. It was the first such international conference held in Asia. It had long been a dream of Asian scientists involved in thermodynamics research to host this conference.

The conference was indeed a success, and was the largest in the series: there were 600 participants (including 25 accompanying persons) from 39 countries. The Rossini Lecture was presented by Robert A.

Alberty. Moreover there were seven plenary lectures, 270 oral presentations, and 251 poster presentations organized into eight symposia and six workshops.

It was planned to publish two special issues of *Thermochimica Acta*, based on this conference: "Interactions with Water" and "New Materials". For the latter issue, Professors Atake and Wakihara were appointed as guest editors. The submitted papers have been reviewed and revised in line with standard procedures of the journal. Finally 23 papers have been accepted in this special issue on "New Materials". We thank all the authors for their contributions.

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