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On 16 September 1992 Hitoshi Ohtaki celebrated his 60th birthday. In March 1993 he retired from the Institute for Molecular Science in Okazaki and became professor emeritus of Tokyo Institute of Technology. Since April 1993 he continued his scientific work at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.

On this occasion, his coworkers and colleagues decided to honor him by a collection of scientific papers. Many researchers, not only from Japan but from all over the world answered positively to the unexpected, sudden request of contributing an article. To these we express our sincere thanks. The highly qualified contributions broadly cover the fields of solution chemistry and coordination chemistry in experiments, theory, and computer simulations. The individual papers are connected in one way or another to H. Ohtaki's scientific interest and work. We hope this volume serves to understand H. Ohtaki's scientific activities and to stimulate many colleagues and friends of today and in the future to pursue their original and creative work.

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On behalf of H. Ohtaki's 60th anniversary committee, Toshio Yamaguchi Professor of Chemistry Fukuoka University