International Trace Analysis Symposium—ITAS '94

ITAS '94 was held on August 23–28, 1994, in Hakodate and Sapporo, Japan, jointed with the 7th Japan–Russia Joint Symposium on Analytical Chemistry, sponsored by the Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry and that of the Hokkaido Branch. The Japan–Russia Joint Symposium on Analytical Chemistry was founded in 1982 by Prof. Taichiro Fujinaga (Kyoto Univ.) and Prof. Ivan Alimarin (Moscow State Univ.) in order to activate mutual collaboration and to promote the analytical chemistry of both countries. The second symposium was held in Moscow and Kiev, USSR, in 1984, the third in Nagoya in 1986, and the forth in Moscow and Tashkent in 1988. The fifth symposium, which was held in Sendai and Kiryu, Japan in 1990, was expanded to an international one, as ITAS '90. The opening of this symposium to all analytical chemists was based on the consent of scientists of both countries. Thus, the name as well as the concept of this symposium has succeeded to ITAS '94. The sixth one was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1992.

ITAS '94 was concerned with all facets of the new development of trace analysis, separation, and speciation for environmental, biological, and advanced material samples. After distributing the proceedings (*ca.* 380 pages), ninety eight papers were presented: 52 of them orally and the others by posters. About 180 participants from 8 countries registered with ITAS '94, including 10 delegates from Russia. The scientific program had already been announced in *Bunseki*, 1994 (6).

The Hakodate session was held at Bay Hakodate in Hakodate on August 23–24. The conference Hall, surrounded by a brick-wall, was isolated from the outside; however, the busy and merry market place of the water front at Hakodate Harbor area produced a fantastic atmosphere. The scientific program began with an opening address by Prof. Takao Yotsuyanagi of Tohoku University, followed by Prof. Boris F. Myasoedov of Vernadsky Institute, Moscow.

After an exciting excursion bus trip from Hakodate to Sapporo *via* the beautiful Lake Toya on August 25, the Sapporo session was held at the International Conference Hall of the Hokkaido University on August

26–28, which is equipped with very modern facilities.

In addition to the conference lectures, analytical chemistry open lectures for the community were presented on August 26 in the afternoon by Takao Yotsuyanagi and Emiko Kaneko (Tohoku Univ.), and Masuo Nakano (Obihiro Univ. of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine) at the Sapporo International Communication Plaza.

A reception, a mixer, and a banquet were held at Bay Hakodate (August 23), at the Centenary Memorial Hall of Hokkaido University (August 26), and at Sapporo Christian Center (August 28), respectively, with very pleasant and friendly atmospheres.

On the evening of August 28, ITAS '94 was successfully concluded along with an address by Prof. Tuguo Sawada of Tokyo University and Prof. Boris F. Myasoedov of Vernadsky Institute at the closing ceremony. At this time, the Russian members proposed holding the next, eighth, Russia-Japan Joint Symposium on Analytical Chemistry in Russia in 1996.

The history of this symposium over a twelve-year period has shown that it has always served to create many exciting collaborations based on new friendship among the participants. We truly believe that ITAS '94 could also successfully achieve this by stimulating fruitful discussions and exchanger among the participants. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of all the participants and of the organizing bodies, especially those of the Hokkaido Branch of the Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry, and would like to express our deep gratitude to the Hokkaido prefectural government, Sapporo-shi, Hakodate-shi, and many Japanese companies for their support.

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