Letters to the Editor

49th Symposium on Analytical Chemistry**Tsugio KOJIMA***Department of Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606*

The 49th Symposium on Analytical Chemistry, sponsored by The Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry, was held on June 2 and 3 at Hotel Laforet Biwako, located at Moriyama, Shiga Prefecture. Moriyama faces on Lake Biwa and is noted for its scenic beauty.

The Symposium was organized by a committee consisting of 38 members of the Kinki Branch of the Society, with Prof. Tsugio Kojima (Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University) as the chairman. The meeting attracted 684 participants; 288 speakers presented new, significant developments in the broad area of analytical chemistry. The program of the symposium consisted of two kinds of talk: the main topical subjects and other subjects. Three main themes of topical subjects were selected to form the backbone of the program. Those subjects were (1) Chemical measurements for protecting the environment (Room F); (2) Development of analytical methods utilizing molecular recognition (Room A); (3) Development of sensor techniques (Room E). The numbers of talks concerning these topics were 39 for (1), 22 for (2) and 18 for (3). All contributions that did not fit into any of the main themes were collected as general subjects which ran in parallel with the topical subjects. The scope of the general subjects was naturally very broad. Thus, 209 presentations covering most fields in analytical chemistry were distributed in 5 lecture rooms according to the content. Room A: flow injection analysis, photoacoustic spectrometry and X-ray analysis, Room B: UV, visible and infrared absorption spectrometries, fluorometry and luminescence, Room

C: atomic absorption and emission spectrochemical analysis, Room E: adsorption and precipitation techniques and electrometric analysis.

In conjunction with oral presentations a manufacturers' exhibition was held in the immediate vicinity of the lecture rooms, where 10 instrument companies demonstrated or displayed their products. Since this proved to be very interesting and gave a comprehensive view of the status of analytical instruments, the exhibition rooms were crowded with attendants.

On the evening of June 2, a ceremony to confer the JSAC RONBUNSHO was held at a hall of Hotel Laforet Biwako. Dr. Toshiaki Nomura (Faculty of Science, Shinshu University) was honored for his paper on "Adsorption determination of sulfate in water with a quartz mass sensor" published in *Bunseki Kagaku*, 36, 93 (1987). After this, a banquet was held at the same hall. The 280 attendants took pleasure in the delicious food and enjoyed the local *sake*.

In summary, the atmosphere of the symposium was exceedingly friendly and creative. There was a good exchange of ideas and information and adequate time for questions in this symposium. The time that was spent at this meeting was time that was wisely invested. Attendance was up considerably from last year. This fact reflects the growing importance of analytical chemistry in Japan. We hope the symposium will continue to grow. The next, 50th symposium, will be held in Matsue, Shimane Prefecture.

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