Letters to the Editor

The 53rd Symposium on Analytical Chemistry

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The 53rd Symposium on Analytical Chemistry, one of the two annual national meetings of The Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry (JSAC), was held at Akita University, Akita, from May 31st to June 3rd, 1992. Akita is the capital city of Akita Prefecture, located in the northern region of Japan and facing the Japan Sea. It has abundant greenery, cultural and historical assets, and has been developing as one of the central cities on the Japan Sea coast, having a population of 300,000. The symposium was planned and conducted by the Organizing Committee (chairman: Professor Hajime Ishii of Tohoku University) comprising 36 members of the Tohoku Branch of the Society. In total, 676 participants registered for the Symposium and 329 papers were presented in nine rooms for two full days.

The main themes of the symposium were: (1) analytical chemistry using bioaffinity, (2) spectroscopic approach for analytical chemistry, (3) analytical chemistry using chemical probes, and (4) new development in separation chemistry and solution chemistry. Eight keynote lectures (two for each main theme) and 14, 26, 26 and 54 papers, respectively, were presented for the main theme sessions, along with 173 papers in general sessions and 28 papers in a special session for introducing new analytical techniques and instruments. The highlights of the Symposium were released to the press in both Tokyo on May 21st by the Publicity Committee of JSAC and in Akita on May 29th by several members of the Organizing Committee.

The keynote lectures (50 min presentation) were:

- Biosensors Based on Langmuir-Blodgett Membrane Coated Electrode (T. Osa, Tohoku University)
- Chemiluminescent and Bioluminescent Enzyme Immunoassay (A. Tsuji, Showa University)
- Applications of Laser Photothermal Spectroscopy to Microarea Analysis and to the Analysis of Submicron Particles (T. Sawada, The University of Tokyo)
- State of the Art of Atomic Spectroscopic Analysis and Electron Spectroscopic Analysis (K. Hirokawa, Tohoku University)
- Designing Complexing Agents Based on the Concept of Molecular Recognition (M. Takagi, Kyushu University)
- Design and Application of a Fluorescent Chiral

Derivatization Reagent (H. Meguro, Tohoku University)

- Interfacial Reactions in Solvent Extraction Systems (H. Watarai, Akita University)
- Utility of Some Solid-Liquid Interfaces for Separation and Concentration of Analyte with High Efficiency (K. Takamura, Tokyo College of Pharmacy)

A Symposium buffet party was held at Akita Terminal Hotel on the evening of Sunday 31st. The party was opened by a welcoming address presented by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Professor H. Ishii, followed by an addresses by the President of JSAC, Professor A. Mizuike, the President of Akita University, Professor N. Niino, and the Mayor of Akita City, Mr. R. Ishikawa. Then, the JSAC "Ronbunsho" Award (for the best paper published in *Bunseki Kagaku* in 1991) was presented to Professor K. Takamura of Tokyo College of Pharmacy and her co-workers (Drs. K. Arai and F. Kusu) for their contribution: "Electrical Potential Oscillation across a Water-Octanol-Water Liquid Membrane with an Anionic Surfactant, *Bunseki Kagaku*, 40, 775 (1991)". About 300 participants had a pleasant time in conversations and enjoyed drinking Akita's delicious rice wine, Sake and eating local cuisine with relish. During the party, "Namahage", a traditional event against evil, handed down in the Oga Peninsula and held on the last day of the year, was exceptionally demonstrated for the participants. Also, at the end of the party, "Kanto", a lantern festival held on the day of Tanabata (Star Festival) every year, was demonstrated.

On the last two days, June 2-3, 31 participants enjoyed a Symposium excursion: On the first day they visited "Buke-yashiki", a Samurai family's residence, followed by Tazawa Lake, Tamagawa Dam and the Tableland of Hachimantai, and were put up at Goshogake Hot-spring. On the following day they visited Mine-land Osarizawa and Towada Lake. Throughout the excursion the participants enjoyed very beautiful fresh verdure in the north-eastern districts.

The next, 54th Symposium on Analytical Chemistry, will be held on June 5-6, 1993 at Mito.

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