

## 125 Years of the Chemical Society of Japan – 125 Years of Prospering Science

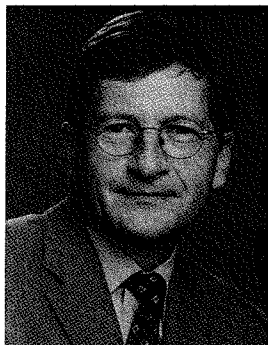
The Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh), the German Chemical Society, extends warmest congratulations to the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

On April 26, 1878, the Tokyo Chemical Society – soon to become the Chemical Society of Japan – was founded by 24 chemists. Ever since that important day for chemistry in Japan, the CSJ has served the chemical community in Japan and worldwide with great success. While the GDCh is only in its 54th year and hence very young compared to the CSJ, its predecessor organizations date back to the second half of the 19th century. We therefore proudly look back upon a long history of an extremely good relation between the Japanese and German chemical communities. Our good contacts have been characterized by an intensive and fruitful exchange of chemists; many students, young researchers and senior scientists from Japan have come to Germany, and vice versa, to enjoy the hospitality of the host country and to benefit from the experience and chemical knowledge of universities, research institutions and industries.

An interesting similarity between our two societies lies in the post-war merging of the original society memberships, which had been based in academia and industry. The resulting new Nippon Kagaku Kai, the CSJ, and the new GDCh hence embrace chemistry in academia and industry alike and are dedicated to offering the best service to all members. We know that a fruitful interplay between basic and applied research and rapid transfer of scientific and technological developments into commercial applications are the main pillars of successful progress in our science.

Let me mention some particularly interesting highlights from the last 50 years of the long history of the close and friendly relations between our societies.

In the fall of 1953, the CSJ celebrated its 75th anniversary. Professor Walter Reppe, well known as father of acetylene chemistry, not only presented the official congratulatory address of the GDCh but delivered one of the three lectures by representatives from friendly societies. In 1959, two eminent Japanese scientists, Professor M. Kotake, at that time President of the CSJ, and Professor S. Takei of Kyoto accepted an official GDCh invitation and visited both parts of the then divided Germany. And 25 years ago, Professor Oskar Glemser, at that time President of GDCh, personally attended the centennial anniversary of the CSJ and conveyed the congratulatory address of the GDCh.



Also in scientific matters the CSJ and the GDCh cooperate in many fields of chemistry. A case in point are our joint efforts in addressing environmental issues, characterized by joint meetings and numerous personal contacts among scientists of the two countries. In addition to the many bilateral activities in this area, Japanese-German efforts are concentrated in IUPAC and in the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety. In this context I should mention the work of the GDCh Advisory Committee on Existing Chemicals, BUA, which is well known in Japan. We are glad to offer every new BUA report immediately to Japanese colleagues.

Chemical enterprise knows no national borders and is truly international. It is hence of utmost importance that chemical societies, too, adopt an international scope. As one of the world's largest chemical societies, the CSJ has always conducted its activities internationally, seeking an exchange of views with societies throughout the world and contributing to chemistry-related organizations for the benefit of chemists and the advancement of the chemical sciences. The GDCh is proud to be a partner of its Japanese sister society and looks forward with enthusiasm to further developing our fruitful cooperation in many areas of mutual interest.

Professor Junji Furukawa, then President of the CSJ, closed his address on the occasion of its centennial in April 1978 with the words: "The Society must work internationally: that is, for the chemistry of the world" and "There must be cooperation between academic and industrial fields." I congratulate the CSJ on its admirable and most successful response to Professor Furukawa's appeal, and I am convinced that it will continue this praiseworthy course in the future.

May the CSJ continue to flourish in the years to come!

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