

## The Korean Chemical Society Seeks a Closer Relationship with the Chemical Society of Japan

I would like to extend, on behalf of the Korean Chemical Society (KCS), whole-hearted congratulations to the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ) on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

We understand that the CSJ has been playing prominent roles in presenting right directions in and promoting both basic and applied research for the society members. We believe this is the best evidence that the CSJ has played a leading role in helping the Japanese chemical research and industry as a whole to become one of the most advanced ones in the world.



In recent years Korea and Japan have been keeping close cooperation and academic exchange at the governmental as well as the chemical society levels. Notwithstanding, looking back upon the history of academic exchange in chemistry area between the two countries it has been only 30 years, which is deemed rather short in view of geological proximity. The first record of the Korea-Japan exchange for chemists dates back to 6 September 1971 when Dr. S. Kodama visited Korea to present a lecture. Since then the exchange has been continued and become much more frequent in recent years. Academic exchanges such as the biennial joint Korea-Japan organic chemistry seminar that started in 1982, the Korea-Japan analytical chemistry symposium that was first held in 1985, the Korea-Japan inorganic chemistry symposium and the Korea-Japan medicinal chemistry symposium that started in 1991 have contributed to a great extent to enhancing good neighborly relation and ties between chemists in the two countries and to solving common issues relevant to achieving the advanced chemistry.

Recently we are concerned about the distinctive trend among young talented men in Korea of shunning away from basic sciences, in particular chemistry. It seems that this trend is global but it is very likely due to the lack of understanding on the basics of chemistry from the rather scientifically illiterate general public. In this regard, we need to be very diligent to continuously educate and inform the general public that chemistry is the basic technology not to cause environmental pollution but to cleanse the environmental pollution and that chemistry is essential to preserving life and good living. In actuality, chemistry is the science of life itself that is involved in every aspect of living, welfare and improvement of the human society. Chemistry is the central science that is essential for advancement of IT, BT and NT. The Korean Chemical Society is devoted constantly to put

chemistry in the right place it deserves by educating the general public through mass media in order to have them appreciate that chemistry is the basis of human life and welfare and that the progress of applied science is warranted only when the basic science is firmly rooted and developed. Thereby our young talented people are to favor and choose chemistry as their career and to be successful in their career as chemists. This goal may not be easily achieved by the effort of the chemical society of a single nation but can be reached when pursued globally by chemical societies worldwide.

We sincerely hope continuous exchange and close cooperation between the KCS and the CSJ to help promote scientific advancement of both countries jointly and become the most advanced chemical societies in the world.

We send the Chemical Society of Japan best wishes for continuous prosperity.

**Sang-Chul SHIM**

*Professor, Kyungpook National University  
President of the Korean Chemical Society*