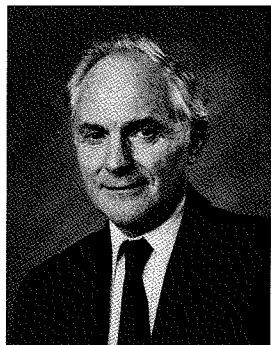


A Glorious Future

As President of the Royal Society of Chemistry and on behalf of the RSC Council, our 46,000 members worldwide and our 300 staff, I send the Chemical Society of Japan and its members and staff our sincerest greetings and warmest congratulations on its 125th anniversary.



The CSJ is an important member of the worldwide family of national chemical societies. It is an important publisher of research, and plays a leading role in chemical education and in promoting environmental chemistry and green chemical issues worldwide as part of its role to promote the positive contribution that chemistry can and will play in ensuring that the Earth is protected for future generations. The RSC, and its predecessor bodies, has enjoyed a close relationship with the CSJ for many years and we look forward to this continuing into the future.

The RSC is honoured that a former President of The Chemical Society, Sir Henry E. Roscoe [President, 1880-1882] had a close relationship with many Japanese chemists towards the latter part of the 19th century. Roscoe wrote in his autobiography published in 1906 of "...many promising students [from Japan] that were sent to universities in Europe and America to learn the scientific method. Several came to Owens College, and I became intimate with those studying chemistry. They were one and all extraordinary persevering, painstaking men."

Our two organisations have worked together to promote links between our web sites and have exchanged information and ideas to better support chemistry in our respective countries. Many Japanese chemists play an important role within the publishing activities of the RSC by sitting on the editorial advisory boards, acting as referees and as authors of papers and books. We in the RSC have celebrated the success of recent Japanese Nobel prizes winners in chemistry through the distribution of the Nobel posters to all UK schools and colleges.

As we enter the 21st century, and the CSJ celebrates its 125th anniversary, science has never been more exciting. The world is looking forward to science and technology improving the quality of lives across the globe.

We stand on the threshold of reaping the benefits from the elucidation of the structure of the human genome via better targeted and more selective medicines. Developments in the life sciences mean that in emerging economies we look forward to increased crop yields

and better water quality that will help improve the lives of some of the world's poorer citizens.

Our exploits in developing and capturing the benefits of novel materials offer the promise of molecular machines that will open up new treatments in medicine and provide innovative solutions in transport, buildings and consumer products. And through better understanding of climate change and ecosystems, we look forward to increasing the quality of our environment, calling upon developments in sustainable technology and green science, especially in chemistry.

It is a paradox that chemistry will play a critical role in all of these areas when some believe that its time has passed, to be replaced by biology, materials and nanotechnology. However, chemistry is the enabling science in all of these: the critical tool to understand the processes and develop new ideas and technologies in these new emerging science areas. Along with others in the world chemistry community we face the challenge of persuading the young of the excitement of the challenges that lie ahead and of the rewarding careers in chemistry that are to be had.

National chemical societies such as the CSJ have a pivotal role to play in promoting the importance of chemistry, facilitating collaboration between researchers both in academia and industry, providing role models for the young and speaking-up for and being evangelical about the subject. At the national level chemical societies can tailor their messages to meet local priorities and cultural differences. By working together internationally societies can provide coherent messages and responses to global issues raised by supranational agencies, lobby groups and intergovernmental bodies. Our organisations can give authoritative independent scientific advice to help inform debate and discussion on the issues of the day.

We in the worldwide chemical community share a common vision: To improve the quality of life for all across the globe. To safeguard the Earth for future generations. And to further our scientific understanding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harold Kroto'.

Sir Harold KROTO, Nobel Laureate
Professor, University of Sussex
President of the Royal Society of Chemistry