
Foreword

Results of individual studies on arsenic have been reported by researchers in the fields of medicine, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, physical science, engineering, and oceanography. However, a problem existed in that there was insufficient exchange of opinion and data between researchers in various fields. For a number of years Japanese researchers have participated in international-scale symposia on arsenic, held in the USA and Europe. There had been, however, no such symposia held in Japan until 1983. Symposia on arsenic, in which various researchers give reports, hold discussions, and exchange relevant data are essential for giving us a more general view on this useful yet toxic element.

On 3 November 1983 the first Arsenic Symposium in Japan was held in Shizuoka, inspired by a number of enthusiastic researchers who based their ideas on the above concept. The reports presented were published in a book, *Arsenic in Chemistry, Metabolism, and Toxicity*, Kohseisha Kohseikaku, Tokyo, 1985. The second Arsenic Symposium in Japan, also in Shizuoka held on 23 November 1985, featured the distinguished participation of Dr J. S. Edmonds of the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories and Professor H. Norin of Sweden. Following this second symposium, a systemization of Japanese researchers on arsenic was urged and in the same month the Japanese Arsenic Scientists' Society (JASS) was established. It was under the JASS that the third Arsenic Symposium was held in Kagoshima on 22 November 1987. The participation of three prominent foreign authorities on arsenic, Dr J. S. Edmonds from Australia, Professor K.

J. Irgolic of Texas A&M University and Professor A. A. Benson of the University of California, made the occasion worthy of being labelled 'International'. Moreover, results of this symposium, published in a special edition of the international journal *Applied Organometallic Chemistry* (Vol. 2, No. 4, 1988), attracted a great deal of attention on a world-wide scale.

The fourth Arsenic Symposium in Japan, held in Tokyo on 24 November 1989, featured the distinguished participation of Dr J. S. Edmonds, Professor K. J. Irgolic, and Professor F.-J. Lu of the National University of Taiwan. The distinguished guest speaker from Japan was Dr M. Morita, National Institute for Environmental Studies. This occasion was rewarded with an attendance of more than 100 researchers from various universities, commercial research institutes and sanitary and health research centers.

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