

Foreword

The toxicity of arsenic has attracted the keen interest of normal people as well as assassins and murderers. These interests could become wider and deeper in future, as the Ga-As semiconductors are used more widely as a candidate of post-silicon. Arsenic has been investigated separately by many researchers in many scattered fields in Japan, such as the medical, pharmaceutical, pure scientific, engineering, agricultural and oceanographical fields. Consequently, the fruits of their efforts were presented separately in their own Societies; interdisciplinary exchange of the results has been expected for a long time.

Finally, in 1983, the first Symposium on Natural and Industrial Arsenic in Japan was held in Shizuoka, Japan, by a few arsenic scientists. The proceedings of the symposium were published as a book, *'Arsenic—Its Chemistry, Metabolism, and Toxicity'*, Koseisha-Koseikaku, Tokyo, 1985. After the subsequent 2nd Symposium on Natural and Industrial Arsenic held in Shizuoka, November, 1985, the Japanese Arsenic Scientist's Society (JASS) was founded by Japanese arsenic scientists.

This issue is a collection of 15 papers, including an invited lecture, presented at the fifth Symposium held at Shimonoseki University of Fisheries, 23 November, 1991, sponsored by JASS. This Symposium was a sequel to the third International Symposium held in Kagoshima, November, 1987 and the fourth International Symposium held in Tokyo, 1989. In Kagoshima, 20 papers including special lectures by Professor K J Irgolic of Texas A & M University, Dr J S Edmonds of Marine Research Laboratory of

Western Australia and Dr T Tanaka of Japan Consulting Engineers Association were presented. In Tokyo, two special lectures and 20 papers were given including invited lectures titled 'Arsenic compound in marine algae' by Dr M Morita of the National Institute for Environmental Studies and 'Fluorescent humic substances and blackfoot disease in Taiwan' by Professor F J Lu of the National Taiwan University. Two special issues of *Applied Organometallic Chemistry* devoted specifically to publishing those proceedings (Vol. 2, No. 4, 1988 and Vol. 4, No. 3, 1990) have attracted the keen attention of researchers in this field.

It is always difficult to express gratitude to all of those persons who have contributed so much to the success of a conference and a volume such as this. We believe a special note of thanks goes to our session chairpersons for their willingness to undertake the difficult task of editing the remarks presented at each session. We also give a special note of thanks to Professor P J Craig, the General Editor of *Applied Organometallic Chemistry*, Professor K J Irgolic of Karl-Franzens Universität Graz, Austria, and Professor S Maeda of Kagoshima University, who generously contributed in publishing the contents of the symposium as a special issue of *Applied Organometallic Chemistry*.

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