

Preface

This symposium was held in the Asakura Campus of Kochi University, Japan, from September 26 to 28, 1998. The Chairman, Professor Takaji Yasui of the Department of Chemistry, Kochi University, and the members of the organizing committee made a great effort to follow the traditions and high standards of the previous 47 successful conferences in this Series, held annually from the 1st symposium (Tokyo Institute of Technology, 1951), as well as the 10th (1967) and 30th (1994) International Conferences on Coordination Chemistry held in Japan. The program consisted of four mini-symposia on specially selected themes, and 239 oral and 353 poster presentations under five themes of interest selected by the organizing committee. This symposium, as with all its predecessors, aimed to serve as the birthplace for ideas and development of coordination chemistry. Since Professor Yuji Shibata planted coordination chemistry in Japan after returning from Professor Werner's laboratory, coordination chemistry has been one of the most exciting and rapidly growing research areas in Japan, and has attracted not only chemists but also scientists from a number of related fields. This kind of research requires the cross-disciplinary cooperation of scientists having different backgrounds and experiences. In this respect, this symposium was very successful and all the participants very much enjoyed the high standard of presentations and stimulating discussions. The atmosphere imparted the enthusiasm and excitement of this symposium, especially to young scientists whose activities will be essential for the development of coordination chemistry in the near future.

This special issue of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* compiles mini-reviews by 21 selected contributors to this symposium, including two young scientists who received an Award from the Japan Society of Coordination Chemistry. This issue will be a valuable source of information on the current research activities in the field of coordination chemistry in Japan. The 50th anniversary of this symposium will be held in the Kusatsu Campus of Ritsumeikan University in 2000 (Chairperson: Professor Hitoshi Ohtaki), and will involve invited lectures by some of the world's leading scientists.

Strong support from the Japan Society of Coordination Chemistry and the Chemical Society of Japan is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Professor Takaji Yasui and his many colleagues at Kochi University for their work

in organising the symposium and for their wonderful hospitality. My sincere thanks are due to Professors A.B.P Lever (York University, Chief Editor of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*) and Hiroshi Ogino (Tohoku University, Chairman of the Japan Society of Coordination Chemistry) for their great effort in arranging this special issue. Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the contributors who have kindly found time in their busy schedules to prepare the manuscripts.

Mitsuhiko Shionoya
The University of Tokyo
Tokyo,
Japan