

## Masaru Matsuoka (1942–2002)

On 10 January, 2002, Professor Masaru Matsuoka lost his fight with cancer and passed away, aged 59. Professor Matsuoka was a well-known and highly respected colour chemist and, of his many professional achievements, will perhaps be remembered as the person chiefly responsible for introducing the concept of “functional dyes” and for furthering this new field of colour chemistry by his extensive research activities, industrial collaborations and publications.

Masaru Matsuoka was born in Nara, Japan, in 1942. He received his BS (1966) and PhD (1973) degrees in colour chemistry from Osaka Prefecture University under the direction of Professor K. Konish. His PhD thesis was entitled *The Effect of Annellation on the Characteristics of Colorants*. He worked as a postdoctoral research fellow with Professor H. Zollinger of the ETH, Zurich from 1973 to 1974, during which time, he carried out research in the molecular design and the synthesis and application of speciality dyes.

In 1967, he joined the Department of Applied Chemistry, College of Engineering, Osaka Prefecture University, as an Instructor and became Associate Professor in 1979. In 1994 he moved to Kyoto Women's University as Professor of Material Science. He was an honorary visiting professor at the East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai (1984) and at Dalian University of Technology in Dalian (1990). Professor Matsuoka was a highly valued contributor to *Dyes and Pigments* and served on the Editorial Board from 1994 to 2001.

His research activities covered an extremely wide range of subjects, but his main interests lay in

the molecular design and synthesis of functional dyes for electro-optical applications. In this context, he was a great proponent of the PPP-molecular orbital method for the routine prediction of the spectroscopic properties of dyes. He was enthusiastic about making information about dyes more accessible to scientists, as evidenced by his co-authorship of *Organic Colorants—A Handbook of Data of Selected Dyes for Electro-optical Applications* (Elsevier, 1988), also available as a computer database, and his authorship of two books, *Infrared Absorbing Dyes* (Plenum, 1990) and *Absorption Spectra of Dyes for Diode Lasers* (Bunshin, 1990). He authored/co-authored over 200 scientific articles and conference proceedings as well as some 100 patents on electro-optical dye materials and related topics.

Professor Matsuoka leaves a wife and two children.

A special edition of *Dyes and Pigments* will appear later in the year as a tribute to Professor Matsuoka.

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