

## Preface

Highlighted by the aspects of rapidly growing polymer industry and polymer research of Korea and well grown-up scientific and industrial collaboration between Korea and Germany, the need of a joint polymer symposium was first discussed in 1989 and resulted to the first bilateral symposium on development and trends in Polymer Materials Science organized in Seoul in 1991 by coordination of Prof. Dr. Man Jung Han and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Wegner. The follow-up symposium was held in 1993 at Max-Planck-Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz. The two very successful symposia have led to the conclusion that the further discussion of research programs, results, trends and be proceeded with young scientists with fresh ideas and recent research results.

The third symposium on New Synthetic Polymers and Complex Systems of Polymers was organized by Prof. Jin Chul Jung and Prof. Dr. Matthias Ballauff under mutual agreement between the Korean Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in 1995 at the Pohang University of Science and Technology.

The 4th German-Korean Symposium was titled "Advanced Polymeric Materials – New Synthetic Routes and Applications" and was organized by Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Adler at the Technische Universität Dresden.

In this symposium, 11 Korean and 12 German presentations gave an excellent overview about present research fields in both countries, from modification of well-known polymers to new polymer structures, like hyperbranched and dendritic polymers, from new surface modification to application in the microsystem technique and biocompatibility of polymers. Further fields such as optimization of optical properties, liquid crystalline polymers and rod-like polymers were also discussed.

This conference should be not the last and will be extended in successful collaboration.

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