



Cover: The POLYCHAR-14 World Forum on Advanced Materials took place in April 2006 at Nara Women's University in Nara City, Japan. More than 250 contributions, including 63 invited lectures, presented the state of the art of advanced polymeric materials. Leading scientists from 35 countries discussed the most recent developments in sessions on Characterization, Nanocomposites, Physical Properties, Syntheses, Surface, Interface and Thin Films. A critical selection of the presented contributions has been compiled for this volume. The graphics on the cover are based on results on the 'ladder' morphology in an ABC triblock copolymer presented by H. Jinnai et al.