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## Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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## **Preface**

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## **PREFACE**

In the development of advanced materials science and technology, organic materials have played a key role as not only genuine compounds but also as matrices for composites. The reason for this is primarily the wide variety of molecular designs of compounds which can adjust the required physicochemical properties. The recent interest in organic materials has grown greatly, especially in the field of electronics and optoelectronics (or photonics). For researchers in both academia and industry it is inevitably required to keep up with the quick development of new materials and their application. Large international conferences would be able to cover this requirement, but more effective are small size topical meetings and symposia.

According to this strategy we have planned the 1st Japan-France Joint Forum (JFJF '93) to exchange ideas regarding the most advanced research on organic electronics and photonics and to initiate new relationships between French and Japanese researchers. JFJF '93 was held at the Institute of Physical & Chemical Research (RIKEN), Wako, Saitama, Japan, on November 17–18, 1993. The forum covered molecular electronics, organic conductors, nonlinear optics, liquid crystals, Langmuir-Blodgett films, biological molecules, and so forth, and there were 38 presentations. This special issue includes 29 of those papers.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to express my gratitude to all of the participants, and also to Mrs. Tomoko Nakagawa for her clerical assistance. Financial support from RIKEN, The Japanese Research Association for Organic Electronics Materials (JOEM), Thomson CSF and Gordon and Breach Science Publishers is also highly appreciated.

Hiroyuki Sasabe Co-chair of the Forum & Proceedings Editor