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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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## GUEST EDITOR'S PREFACE

The papers appearing in this issue were presented at the 4th International Union of Materials Research Societies International Conference in Asia held at the Overseas Vocational Training Association, Makuhari, Chiba, Japan, September 16–18, 1997. Symposium program is liquid crystals and liquid crystalline polymers for advanced technologies. Active scientists from six Asian countries presented 29 papers. This proceeding is a collection of papers presented at the conference. The programme included ferroelectric, conductive and NLO properties of liquid crystalline polymers, liquid crystal alignment, layers and simulations, molecular organization in liquid crystal polymers, liquid crystal alignment layers and related processing, electro-optical properties of liquid crystals, and synthesis and characterization on new materials.

The major commercial application of liquid crystalline polymers (LCP) is the use of main chain type lyotropic LCP, to produce high tensile strength fibers. On one hand, in the case of thermotropic LCPs, mainly polyester types of main-chain LCPs are one of the attractive materials in the field of engineering thermoplastics for their expanding applications and nine Japanese companies have succeeded in the development of thermotropic LCPs. Although side-chain type LCPs have a great deal of interest in them as research aspects such as optical and electrical materials, there are no existing commercial applications of side-chain LCPs. However, a novel optical compensation film based on the discotic side-chain LCP for wide-viewing-angle in liquid crystal devices have commercialized in Japanese company.

The editor is proud of the high scientific quality of the papers included in this volume and would like to express his deep appreciation to the authors for their excellent contributions.

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