



## Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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### Foreword

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## Foreword

The present issue of *Molecular Crystals Liquid Crystals* is devoted to the proceedings of two meetings held in Castiglioncello (Italy) from June 4 to June 9, 2006.

The first meeting was the third Italian-Japanese Workshop on Liquid Crystals which continues the recent tradition of this biennial joint event started in 2002 in Erice (Italy) and followed by the second one held in Tsu (Japan). The purpose of these bilateral workshops, organised by the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL) and by the Japanese Liquid Crystal Society (JLCS) is to bring together members of the Italian and Japanese liquid crystal communities in order to present and discuss recent results in the research efforts undertaken by these two communities. The format of the workshop was based on a number of keynote talks of leading Italian and Japanese scientists and all the participants had the opportunity to present their latest works as posters.

The second meeting was the usual biennial meeting of SICL. It is the traditional Italian site for presentation of the wide spectrum of scientific activities in the field of liquid crystals spanning from synthesis of new materials to structural properties, from interfacial phenomena to optical properties, from confined geometries to advanced photonic applications. As usual it gathers chemists, physicists and engineers working in this field, providing a forum for young scientists who are encouraged to present their work and interact with selected experts in the field.

Some of the original contributions presented at the two meetings were submitted for the Proceedings and refereed according to the standard procedure of this Journal. The contributions cover a wide range of aspects of liquid crystal research, from synthesis and physico-chemical characterization to novel technological applications, comprising both experimental and theoretical investigations.

The successful organization of the two meetings was only possible thanks to the help of many people and we would like to mention in particular Prof. M. Koide and Prof. T. Ikeda for their continuous collaboration in organizing the Italian-Japanese events. Moreover Drs. M. Cifelli and V. Domenici were essential for the local organization in Castiglioncello.

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