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Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gmcl20>

Preface

Olaf Karthaus Chair of KJF 2008

Version of record first published: 25 Jun 2009

To cite this article: Olaf Karthaus Chair of KJF 2008 (2009): Preface, Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals, 504:1, vii-viii

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15421400902938837>

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Preface

This special issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* contains original research papers accepted as conference proceedings through the peer review process based on the journal standard. The Korea-Japan Joint Forum 2008 (KJF 2008) on Organic Materials for Electronics and Photonics was co-held with the 9th Chitose International Forum (CIF'9) on October 22 to 25, 2008 at the Chitose Institute of Science and Technology in Chitose (CIST), Hokkaido, Japan.

Organic materials are tremendously promising for electronic and photonic applications in the fields of information technology, biotechnology and various fusion technologies because of their versatility brought forth by the sheer endless variations in molecular design and processing. Organic devices allow environmentally friendly processing and performance and hence broaden their potential applications.

Starting in 1989 with just 30 participants, KJF has established itself as one of the important international meetings in Asia for the exchange of information about recent advances in organic materials for electronics and photonics. This annual forum has expanded to host an increasing number of participants, culminating in 330 participants in 2008. Over the years, the vivid scientific exchange has led to a mutual respect for each other and the development and deepening of personal friendships across borders. KJF 2008 was the 20th conference in this annual series, traditionally hosted alternating in both countries. CIF is the annual international forum that was established soon after the foundation of CIST and aims at bringing together scientists in the field of photonics.

On behalf of the KJF organizing committee, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all contributors to KJF 2008/ CIF'9.

I especially would like to thank Co-chair Prof. Nakjoong Kim and Co-secretary General Prof. Changjin Lee for preparing and managing KJF 2008. I also thank the Honorary Chairs Prof. Jung-Il Jin and Prof. Hiroyuki Sasabe, the KJF Committee Chair Dr. Kiyoshi Yase and all KJF Committee members in both countries for their support.

This conference would not have been possible without logistic and financial support and I would like to thank the Hokkaido Initiative for Nanotechnology Support (HINTS), The Photonics World

Consortium (PWC), Chitose Institute of Science and Technology (CIST), the Molecular and Bioelectronics section of the Japan Society of Applied Physics (M&BE, JSAP), the 142nd Committee of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Korea-Japan Global Core Institution Project of Yonsei University for their generous support.

Finally, I thank Secretary General Prof. Ken-ichi Sakai and all members of the KJF 2008 Conference Committee and the students and staff at CIST for their devoted efforts.

Olaf Karthaus
Chair of KJF 2008