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Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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Foreword

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Foreword

The present issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* is devoted to the Proceedings of the fourth Japanese-Italian Workshop on Liquid Crystals held in Nara from 7 to 9 July, 2008.

The first Italian-Japanese workshop held in 2002 in Erice, Italy, was organized by the collaboration of the Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL) and the Japanese Liquid Crystal Society (JLCS) with the aim of bringing together members of the Japanese and Italian liquid crystal communities in order to present and discuss latest results in the research efforts carried out by these two communities. This biennial joint event was followed by the second one held in Tsu, Japan, and third one in Castiglione della Pescaia, Italy.

In view of success of these workshops, the fourth one was organized in the sponsorship of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), in the co-sponsorship of JLCS and Osaka University Global COE program, under the auspices of SICL and the Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP). It is hoped that the presentations and discussion in the meeting will promote exchange and cooperation between Japan and Italy in the more innovative areas of liquid crystal science and technology. We had an attendance of 92 scientists including 13 of them coming from Italy and 2 from India. The program included 30 invited talks and 51 poster presentations. Some of the original contributions presented at the meeting 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 physicochemical characterization to novel technological applications, comprising both experimental and theoretical investigations.

The successful organization of the meeting was only possible thanks to the help of many people and we would like to thank in particular Dr. P. Pasini for their continuous collaboration in organizing the Japanese-Italian events. Moreover, Dr. H. Yoshida was essential for the local organization in Japan. We also acknowledge financial contributions from Nara Convention Bureau, Kansai Research Foundation for Technology Promotion (KRF), the Murata Science Foundation, JLCS FLC07 Fund, division of M&BE in JSAP.

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