

## FOREWORD

The Symposium on Laser Molecular Spectroscopy was held at the International Center, Sendai, Japan, July 2–3, 1992. The meeting was organized by the Alumini Association of my laboratory, to celebrate my retirement from Tohoku University. The meeting was attended by more than 100 scientists, including three invited speakers from overseas, Professors Mostafa A. El-Sayed, Charles Parmenter, and Edward C. Lim.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for the discussion of the latest advances in laser molecular spectroscopy. The conference was very stimulating with many impressive contributions and intense discussions between the attendees, particularly the many younger scientists. The meeting was so successful that Professor Koji Kaya, a member of the Alumini Association and also the Regional Editor for Asia of *Laser Chemistry*, devised a plan to publish the contributions by the younger scientists. To complement this collection, contributions were invited from young scientists abroad who are active in this field. These papers constitute this special issue of *Laser Chemistry*.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the contributors. This special issue and the meeting in Sendai are unforgettable experiences in my life. With such pleasant memories, I was intending to disappear like an old soldier! However, a great surprise happened to me. Unexpectedly, I have been assigned as Director-General of the Institute for Molecular Science, Okazaki, Japan. So my career will continue several years longer than I had anticipated.

Finally, I am very grateful to Professor Koji Kaya for his dedication in organizing this special issue and also to Professors Naohiko Mikami, Yasuo Udagawa, Takayuki Ebata and Masaaki Fujii for their efforts to make the meeting such a wonderful success.

Mitsuo Ito  
May, 1993