Editorial

CALPHAD X was held in Vienna in 1981, where I had an opportunity to listen to a presentation by a friend of mine, Dr. Gernot Kirchner, who dealt with a papaer written by a Japanese chemist, K. Ikeda, entitled "Studies on the Chemical Theory of Solutions. Part I (1908)." This paper by K. Ikeda was a very fine one, which analyzed phase equilibria of binary, ternary, and quaternary systems using models of ideal solution, regular solution, and associated solution. To me, it was a great surprise, and I was very much ashamed of myself for not having known of such a great scientist from the same nation.

Last year, a biography of Kikunae Ikeda (1864-1936) was published. According to this book, he studied under Professor Ostwald in Leipzig for a year and a half beginning in the fall of 1899, then he was invited to be a Professor at the University of Tokyo. He was a leading Japanese chemist who played an active part in science in the same generation as Tammann (1861-1938) in Germany and Van Laar (1860-1938) in the Netherlands. However, the later years of his life were dedicated to the research and development of producing "Ajinomoto," in Japanese, a tasty substance, γ-monosodium glutaminate" from seaweeds. The research paper on phase equilibria was the only one that was written based on the results under Ostwald, which was mentioned above as "Part I". "Part II" was unfortunately never written.

Dr. Ikeda was born just before the dawn of modern Japan (1868). As his father was a descendent of a samurai in reformist Shimadzu Lord, he was able to have a rather wealthy lifestyle and studied English under a woman missionary from the age of 9. At around age 13, he was introduced to chemistry with English text from a foreigner in Government service in the Mint. He was indeed the most appropriate person to import the latest chemistry into Japan.

It may not be proper to write such an article as this, which is something like a biography, for the editorial column. Nevertheless, a student who came from an island of the Far East, studied under Ostwald in Germany, and mastered the "Theory of Equilibrium in Heterogeneous Substances," which was created by Gibbs of the U.S. He then brought back a seed of the newly-developed thermodynamics to his motherland. This fact gives various deep emotional thoughts to many Japanese people.

We are divided by race, religion, or nationality, and can never be homogeneous after all. However, since we are heterogeneous and separated to some extent, we have had an opportunity to thoroughly brew our own culture, and stimulate and enlighten each other by various means, such as visits or exchange of students. I believe that close exchanges of these kinds, in which each one keeps his own independence, will become more and more important. I would like to hope that unique reports or research articles from many countries will be contributed to this "International" *Journal of Phase Equilibria.*

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