

## Letters to the Editor

**International Trace Analysis Symposium—ITAS'90**

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At the fourth USSR–Japan Joint Symposium on Analytical Chemistry held in 1988, it was proposed that the next joint symposium be held in 1990 in Sendai, Japan (*cf. Anal. Sci.*, 4, 543 (1988)). Such a joint symposium with several counterpart countries has been held almost regularly under the sponsorship of The Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry. Since no international symposium concerning analytical chemistry has ever been held in the northern part of Japan, we took this opportunity to plan an international symposium that would be open to all analytical chemists.

This proposal obtained prompt consent from Soviet scientists. Accordingly, the symposium was formally named as International Trace Analysis Symposium with the Fifth Japan–USSR Joint Symposium on Analytical Chemistry (ITAS'90), cosponsored by The Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry along with its Tohoku and Kanto regional divisions. The main theme of the symposium was Trends in Trace Analysis involving Characteristic Separation.

The Sendai session was held at Aoba Memorial House of Tohoku University on July 23–25, 1990. In succession, on both July 26 and 27 the Kiryu Session was held at Hotel International Mushroom Hall. The scientific program began with an opening ceremony on July 23, in which Prof. N. Suzuki of Tohoku University gave the opening address followed by Prof. Yu A. Zolotov of the Kurnakov Institute, Moscow. After distributing the proceedings (*ca.* 470 pages), eighty one papers were presented: 40 of them orally and the others by posters. About 170 participants from more than 10 countries registered with ITAS'90 including 10 delegates from USSR. The scientific program had already been announced in *Bunseki*, 1990 (5). The titles of the plenary lectures and the papers by Soviet attendees are as follows:

Preconcentration of trace elements with functional adsorbents (K. Terada)

Laser photoionization spectroscopy for ultra sensitive determination of element traces (V. N. Radayev)

Access to high-sensitivity assays of neuropeptides and related enzymes by HPLC with fluorescence derivatization (Y. Ohkura)

Methods of oxidation state speciation of plutonium (G. R. Choppin)

Determination of trace element speciation and the role of speciation in aquatic toxicity (M. Florence)

Application of solvent extraction to separation and

determination of trace levels of metal ion (H. Freiser)

Porphyryns as reagents for trace-metal analysis (M. Tanaka)

Counter current chromatography: a status report and application in inorganic analysis (B. Ya. Spivakov)

Membrane methods for preconcentration and separation of radioactive nuclides (A. P. Novikov)

The optical sensors based on filled fiber materials for determination of metal traces (S. B. Savvin)

Measurement of radioactive nuclides in the environment (B. F. Myasoedov)

Flow injection analysis as an instrument environmental control (L. K. Shpigun)

The effect of microwave on sample treatment procedures (N. M. Kuz'min)

Direct analysis of solids by graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry using the slurry sampling technique (B. V. L'vov)

Neutron activation determination of atmosphere contamination (A. A. Kist).

A reception was held at Aoba Memorial Hall on July 23, and a very pleasant banquet was given at Gonryo Kaikan in July 25. An exciting tour to Matsushima Bay, one of the three scenic beauties in Japan, was made on July 24. In addition a bus trip to Kiryu was held on July 26 which included impressive sight-seeing at the historical and beautiful Nikko Toshogu shrine. In the evening of the same day, all of the participants felt a deepend friendship each other at a mixer in the Hotel International Mushroom Hall. In the evening of July 27, ITAS'90 was formally concluded along with an address of Prof. B. V. L'vov of Polytechnical Institute and Prof. A. Mizuike of Science University of Tokyo at the closing ceremony. It was at this time that the Soviet members proposed holding the next, sixth, Japan–USSR Joint Symposium in Leningrad in 1992.

At this symposium a test attempt was successfully carried out to enlarge the joint symposium between the two countries to an international one: it attracted many participants from foreign countries, and fruitful discussions were exchanged among them. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of all the participants and of its organizing bodies, and would like to express our deep gratitude to the scientific foundations in Japan for their support.

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