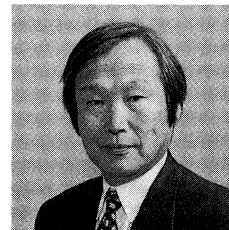


## Why we write in English

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Publishing our Society's journal in English is time consuming and sometimes even painful for both authors and readers. Nevertheless, we believe this endeavor to be a worthy one, because it provides evidence of our activity in Japan to the outside world and above all it will contribute to the progress of chemical science. It should be mentioned that the Japanese language is used almost exclusively in our everyday life. More than 99.9% of our education including curricula in our colleges, and universities is in the Japanese language.

The Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (Yuki Gosei Kagaku Kyokai) was founded in 1942, has 6000 members including 900 students and 300 supporting companies. It is, of course, independent from the Chemical Society of Japan (Nihon Kagakukai), the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan (Nihon Yakugakukai), and many other chemistry-related societies in Japan. Our members usually belong to other two or three of those societies. We host two annual meetings, and a summer school. All papers presented in annual meetings are contributed papers. In the summer school, invited lectures, award lectures, and two special lectureship award lectures are presented. Only the latter are presented in English, since the lectureship series (founded in 1994) is awarded to synthetic chemists from outside Japan. Past awardees were A. G. Myers, T. J. Marks, S. Mobashery, C. Leumann, R. Brückner, E. M. Carreira, D. H. Hua, A. Togni, R. P. Volante, S. G. Davies, A. S. C. Chan, and G. C. Fu.

Our journal, the Journal of the Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (Yuki Gosei Kagaku Kyokaiishi), is published monthly and is essentially a review journal containing editorials, personal accounts, reviews, news, topics from other journals, and the society's reports. The Journal is very popular among academic and industrial people as well as students because it is of high quality and the fact that it is published in Japanese. A good number of foreign chemists subscribe this journal, since the figures, tables, and collection of literature in the reviews are very useful to them, even though they do not understand the Japanese language.

A recent report has concluded that scientific activity in Japan is underestimated in the West. According to G. P. Glasby (*Nature*, **400**, 105 (1999)), the Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Japan ranks second only to the United States in terms of scientific output, although a different view (J. Adams, *Nature*, **396**, 615 (1998)) has also appeared. There is an interesting ranking table prepared by Dr. Tominaga Keii (Professor emeritus Tokyo Institute of Technology) and which appeared in *IDE*, March issue, 20 (1999). Among the top twenty institutes in the world in terms of the number of chemistry papers cited in Chemical Abstracts, up to eight of these were Japanese universities.

These once-a-year English issues are not only special because all articles are in English but also special because they contain only personal accounts and no reviews or news. We sincerely hope that this issue will illustrate the extent of our activity in synthetic chemistry in Japan as well as our contribution to science, worldwide.

(For information about subscription, please write to Mr. Takayuki Nakano, secretary general, at: [syn.org.chem@tokyo.email.ne.jp](mailto:syn.org.chem@tokyo.email.ne.jp))

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