

Towards the 21st Century

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The field of synthetic organic chemistry in Japan comprises unique features. It covers several departments such as chemistry, chemical engineering, pharmaceutical chemistry, agricultural chemistry and so on. The Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry has tried to establish good interrelationships among these departments through publication of the Journal and sponsoring several symposiums. It has also played important roles in promoting acquaintance among members. The publication of review articles cited in the Journals has served to develop mutual understanding of other fields. The original research papers of the authors have usually been submitted to the journal of the respective organization to which they belong, which often limits recognition of notable results achieved in other faculties. The range of subjects covered is indeed wide, e.g., syntheses of target molecule, exploration of synthetic methodology, organometallic chemistry, bioorganic chemistry, polymer chemistry, industrial chemistry, and so on.

This is seventh volume of the English-language issue of the Journal. The major purpose of the publication has been the introduction of research reviews of Japanese organic chemists to the foreign countries, and the authors have been invited from various field irrespective of difference of department. In the near future, contribution of foreign authors should also be introduced.

Toward the next new century, Japan is facing a period of dramatic changeover of generation in many fields. In the area of synthetic organic, such situation is more clearly apparent. A number of professors who have contributed to remarkable progress in this field through their research activities have already retired or are due to leave their positions within a few year. To fill in the vacant positions and to continue or expand research activities, various institutes have been working to recruit highly motivated candidates. Some has succeeded, and others are still searching, but this situation has brought about a rapid movement of young people looking for more profitable research opportunities. Reflecting such phenomenon, papers by several newcomers have also appeared in this Journal. The current trend is expected to continue over the next decade.

Several new research fields also have developed in the last decade: computational chemistry, combinatorial chemistry, supermolecular chemistry, and so on. It will be expected that fair competition among individuals as well as research fields will motivate and nurture young workers towards further progress in their fields and resolution of issues that are still not dissolved in this century.

The 21st century will provide a much better working environment for scientists with real activities, and The Journal of Synthetic Organic Chemistry will continue their efforts to support research activities in all fields.