

- 3 interviewed government officials concerned with access to biodiversity resources, scientific research, and promotion of biotechnology business;
- 4 obtained information about traditional healers in order to learn about their resources and determine their capabilities;
- 5 discussed a specific local action that TWPG will implement. (IOCD has given a small grant to the TWPG for implementation of this local action and urged TMPG to recognize it must be a basic component of the long-term programme for developing the capacity and infrastructure in Nepal for bioprospecting).

Kenya. Also in 1997, the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, Kenya, has requested IOCD assistance in preparing a bioprospecting programme focused on insect diversity. IOCD has allocated funds in a 1997 grant from the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences and the American Chemical Society to the costs of a joint project preparation mission in Kenya for three weeks in June 1998.

In all its work through the Biotic Exploration Fund, IOCD is committed to dealing equitably and respectfully with indigenous peoples and to being guided by the following policy:

IOCD intends to honour the letter and spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other international, regional and national laws and policies concerning biodiversity.

Prepared by: Robert Maybury, Executive Director, IOCD, IOCD (USA Office), PO Box 8156, Falls Church, VA 22041 USA, Tel. & fax: (703) 845 9078, e-mail: iocd@igc.apc.org

Reports from IUPAC sponsored symposia

The Plenary and Invited Lectures from the IUPAC International Symposium on Advances in Polymer Science and Technology, appear in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* 1998, Vol. 70, 1229–1299

The Conference was organized by the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras from 5 to 9 January 1998.

One of the challenges confronting polymer chemists and technologists is to translate the recent insights of the structure and properties of macromolecules gained through research into the practicalities of the chemical industry. Macromolecules Science and Technology is

unique in this aspect, in that innumerable developments in the field have found applications in industry as varied as consumer products, construction, packaging, electronics, coatings, space and aerospace, leather composites, etc.

The prestigious IUPAC International Symposium on Advances in Polymer Science and Technology, organized by the Central Leather Research Institute from 5 to 9 January 1998 at Chennai focused attention on the recent advances in the Indian and International scene of the last two decades. The Symposium covered 287 papers contributed by 590 scientists from India and abroad. The Symposium consisted of plenary, invited lectures and poster presentations, 127 papers were

presented orally and 160 papers presented in the form of posters. The topics covered in the sessions were Polymerization by Single Site Catalysis, Novel Polymers and Polymerization Techniques, Liquid Crystalline Polymers, Conducting Polymers, Functional Polymers, Polymeric Membranes, Biomaterials and Biomedical Polymers, Polymeric Fibres, Blends and Composites, Polymer Structure–Property Relationships, Polymer Characterization and Newer Applications of Polymers.





This Symposium was cosponsored by the Indian National Science Academy, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Departments of Science and Technology, Biotechnology and Defence Research Development Organization of the Government of India, Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd, Vadodara (India) and The Society for Polymer Science, India. The Conference organizers take this opportunity to thank the large number of International and Indian scientists who participated in this Symposium.

Dr K.S.V. Srinivasan,
Convenor

The Plenary and Invited Lectures of The Eighth International Conference on Bioinorganic Chemistry (ICBIC 8) appear in *Pure and Applied Chemistry* 1998, 70, 855–991

The Eighth International Conference on Bioinorganic Chemistry was held in Yokohama, Japan, during the week of 27 July–1 August 1997, with Prof. Masanobu Hidai, University of Tokyo, as Chairman. Following the tradition of the previous conferences held in Florence, Italy (1983), Algarve, Portugal (1985), Leiden, The Netherlands (1987), Cambridge, MA, USA (1989), Oxford, UK (1991), La Jolla, CA, USA (1993), and Lübeck, Germany (1995), the scientific programme of the Conference consisted of oral and poster sessions: there were five plenary lectures, 66 invited lectures, and 370 poster presentations, which were attended by 730 participants from 28 countries.

The plenary lectures were given by Profs R. Huber, K. D. Karlin, P.J. Sadler, J.K. Barton, and T. Kitagawa, and the 66 invited lectures were given in the following 18 sessions:

- A** Molybdenum
- B** Metal Uptake, Transport, and Storage
- C** Copper
- D** Heme Iron and Metalloporphyrins
- E** Metals in Medicine

- F** Nickel
- G** Manganese
- H** Zinc
- I** Bioinspired Homogeneous Catalysis
- J** Iron-Sulfur and Other Metal-Sulfur Clusters
- K** Activation of Small Molecules
- L** Metal Complexes of Small Biomolecules
- M** Non-Heme Iron
- N** Metals, Nucleic Acids, and Gene Regulation
- O** Environmental Bioinorganic Chemistry
- P** Vanadium
- Q** Electron and Energy Transfer
- R** Specific Application of Spectroscopy

All the lectures presented the state of the art of the current research activities in various fields of bioinorganic chemistry. The ICBIC 8 issue of *Pure and Applied Chemistry* contains the plenary lectures and invited lectures on selected topics. The first four lectures were presented by the plenary lecturers. They were followed by the lectures on molybdenum enzymes (A), galactose oxidase (C), heme enzymes (D), Mössbauer spectroscopy of iron porphyrins (D), water-oxidizing manganese enzyme models (G), metal–sulfur clusters (J), diiron complex-dioxygen interactions (M), orientation of imidazole rings in metal complexes (L), stacking and hydrolysis of nucleotide 5'-triphosphates (L), nucleobase arrangements by metal ion coordination (N), and electron transfer in metalloproteins (Q).

This issue will be a valuable guide and source of information for the current trends and achievements in bioinorganic chemistry. Owing to the page limitation, however, only a limited number of topics were selected, so that it was not possible to incorporate the other important and interesting lectures. Readers are recommended to refer to the abstracts of ICBIC 8 published in *The Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry* (Volume 67, Numbers 1–4, 1997) for further information.

The Conference was organized by the Science Council of Japan and the Chemical Society of Japan, and was sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, the Society of Biological Inorganic Chemistry, and the Division of Biofunctional Chemistry of the Chemical Society of Japan. Generous financial support by these and other sponsoring organizations and many companies is gratefully acknowledged. I also wish to thank all the members who took part in organizing the Conference for their heartfelt dedication.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the lecturers for their kind cooperation and excellent contributions to this issue.

Osamu Yamauchi,
Conference Editor,
Chairman, Programme Committee