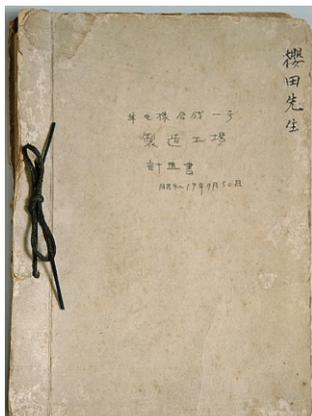


# ICR News 2012

## Materials Related with “Vinylon” in the Institute for Chemical Research Were Approved as Chemical Heritage



Plan for first synthetic wool-like manufacturing plant



Laboratory equipment for spinning “Vinylon”

■ Prof KANAYA, Toshiji

Materials related with “Vinylon” in the Institute for Chemical Research (ICR), Kyoto University, were approved as Chemical Heritage by the Chemical Society of Japan. The plan for industrialization of “Vinylon” and the laboratory equipment for spinning “Vinylon” were certified. On the cover of the plan, “Plan for first synthetic wool-like manufacturing plant” were written in the autograph of Professor Ichiro Sakurada. Synthetic fiber “Vinylon” which was mainly made of polyvinyl alcohol was invented for the first time in domestic technology by Professor Ichiro Sakurada et al., and completed in 1939 at the Institute for Chemical Research (ICR), Kyoto University, which was located in Takatsuki (Takatsuki-cho at that time), Osaka.

Chemical Heritage is one of the most important historical materials related to chemistry and chemical tech-

nology in Japan approved by the Chemical Society of Japan. The presentation ceremony of the award was held in the 92nd Spring Annual Meeting of the Chemical Society of Japan at Keio University, Hiyoshi Campus on 26 March 2012. At the same time, 153 fundamental research literatures and the 5 prototype yarns of Unitika Ltd., who was involved in the industrialization of “Vinylon”, and the initial fiber of “Vinylon” (toe) produced by Kuraray Co., Ltd. (at that time, Kurashiki Rayon Co., Ltd.) were also approved as Chemical Heritage.



Certificate for Chemical Heritage



The certificate presentation ceremony 26 March 2012 (left to right) Norihiro Tokitoh (Director of ICR), Yasuhiro Iwasawa (President of the Chemical Society of Japan), Hitoshi Toyoura (Kuraray Co., Ltd.) and Keiji Yukawa (Unitika Ltd.) at the award ceremony. The positions are at that time.

# 10th International Conference on Heteroatom Chemistry (ICHAC-10)

The International Conference on Heteroatom Chemistry (ICHAC) is an established international forum for the presentation and discussion of research results on the diverse fields of Heteroatom Chemistry. Previous ICHAC meetings have been held in different countries going around Asia, North America, and Europe. This time ICHAC comes back to Japan, the first ICHAC host country (Kobe, 1987), again celebrating its tenth anniversary. It should be noted that ICHAC-10 was a major scientific event, bringing together organic and inorganic chemists all over the world sharing their interests on the different areas of Heteroatom Chemistry. As usual, this conference served as a professional forum to disseminate scientific knowledge on areas related to all fields of Heteroatom Chemistry.

ICHAC-10 was held during the period of 20-25 May 2012 at Uji Obaku Plaza, Kyoto University, and the conference program consisted of 7 plenary and 17 invited lectures, 3 memorial lectures, as well as 43 short communications and 154 poster presentations. We had 371 participants (92 from abroad) from 28 countries. All the participants may have found a fruitful environment at ICHAC-10 for personal contact and scientific exchange, and experienced useful interactions between chemists of different areas.

Finally, as a chairman of ICHAC-10, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the kind support by the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, and the great assistance and contribution from the many members of ICR laboratories related to Heteroatom Chemistry.

■ Prof TOKITOH, Norihiro  
(Chairman of ICHAC-10)



Commemorative photo of organizing committee members and guest speakers

## ICR Grant for Promoting Integrated Research

Institute for Chemical Research (ICR), Kyoto University takes pride in the high standard of research cultivated from the academic freedom and the interplays among our staffs and students having various scientific backgrounds. For greater enhancement of pioneering and/or integrated research collaboration research in house, especially among young research staffs, we established an in-house annual grant system named "ICR Grant for Promoting Integrated Research" in the financial year (FY) of 2004; it was suspended in FY 2007-2011 due to a large scale seismic strengthening works of our main building. This year we restarted this system with appreciating its importance. In addition to the original project which promotes the collaboration among young research staffs (under the age of 40) by providing a research grant of 1-3 million JPY in the year for one application, we have laid an additional category to stimulate collaboration involving foreign young researchers in house (1-2 million JPY). Evaluation of

■ Prof FUTAKI, Shiroh (Vice-Director of ICR)

research proposals through paper screening and interviews by the selection committee has adopted three research proposals in each category. The awardees are requested to report their results in writing and presentation to our in-house members after the completion.



The representative of each adoption subject in the 2012 with the Director and a public-relations committee member.

The round-table talk was held for the beginning-of-a-book plan of the ICR public relations magazine "Obaku" to exchange of free opinions about this system.