



Prof. Koichi Ito

PREFACE

SPECIAL ISSUE DEDICATED TO PROF. KOICHI ITO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

Designed Monomers and Polymers is pleased to publish this special issue dedicated to Prof. Koichi Ito who served as a co-editor of the journal since 1998. The special issue contains contributions by some of the the scientists who had scientific interactions with Prof. Ito or worked in related areas.

Koichi Ito was born on January 1, 1939, in Fukui, Japan. He received his undergraduate and Ph.D. degree based on the “Study on copolymer composition and microstructure” from the Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Nagoya University in 1961. He became a research associate at the same university until 1979, and an associate professor until 1980, when he became a full professor at Toyohashi University of Technology. At the end of March 2004, he retired from the university and was honored as Professor Emeritus. The Department of Material Science of Toyohashi University of Technology promoted some scientific activities honoring Prof. Ito on his retirement on March 20, 2004. In particular former students, associates and friends have dedicated a scientific day to Prof. Ito followed by a “Sayanora Party”. His research area has been in polymer synthesis, including polysoaps (polymeric surface active agents), copolymerization kinetics with microstructure analysis by NMR, ring-opening polymerization and macromonomers. His recent interest was in the precise polymeric design of amphiphilic polymers and

microspheres, in particular by using the macromonomer technique. He has synthesized a number of unique hydrophilic macromonomers using the living polymerization system in high vacuum. For these studies he received The Chemical Society of Japan Award for Young Chemists for “Studies on Copolymer Microstructure” in 1973, and the Society of Polymer Science Japan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Polymer Science and Technology, 2004, for “Studies on Polymeric Design Using Macromonomer Technique”. He has been co-editor of *Designed Monomers and Polymers* from the first issue in 1998 until his retirement.

During his long long career, Prof. Ito has greatly influenced the scientific life of many colleagues and co-workers. His always happy attitude, smiling feature and friendly persona made him a good friend of all scientific community. All those who know him, both near and far, take this opportunity to wish him a happy retirement.

YUSUF YAGCI

Co-Editor, *Designed Monomers and Polymers*