

# New Year's Greeting

President of Japan Oil Chemists' Society Prof. Takeshi KAWAI



Happy New Year! This year efforts will be made to further expand the activities of the Japan Oil Chemists' Society, and we ask all members for your continuing support.

Looking back on the Society's activities and the decisions of the board of directors over the last academic year, what first comes to mind is the increase in the annual membership fee starting this academic year. This was a very difficult decision, but we asked for your understanding of this increase as a means to improve the Society's precarious financial state, as also mentioned earlier in the foreword to this volume. Another thing that springs to mind is the establishment of the Annual Meeting Reform Promotion Committee to enhance the annual meeting, which is the Society's most important endeavor. Chairman Kouichi Asakura (Prof., Keio University) is displaying leadership and running the committee with great energy. An outline for proposed reforms will be settled on during the current academic year, and we look forward to the implementation of these reforms starting with next academic year's annual meeting.

The jointly held 2<sup>nd</sup> ACOS & 56<sup>th</sup> JOCS Meeting (The Asian Conference on Oleo Science 2017 and The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japan Oil Chemists' Society) last year also left a strong impression. Despite the higher than usual registration fee, we had a greater number of participants than expected from both Japan and abroad, which both pleased me tremendously as a member of the executive committee and was also a great relief. We were happy to be able to present this as a means to hold an international conference with a smaller financial burden.

Turning to key activities for the coming year, heading the list is the 57<sup>th</sup> JOCS Meeting. Preparations are underway with Prof. Nagao Totani of Kobe Gakuin University taking the central role. We hope to see the meeting conclude successfully with the participation of many JOCS members. In the first part this year we will redesign the Society's website with the strong efforts of the General Affairs Committee. This will improve our ability to disseminate information externally, and further enhance the information we provide to members. Planning for the 60<sup>th</sup> JOCS Meeting in 2021 and the Society's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022 are also major tasks. Please contact a member of the Board of Directors with any ideas or proposals you

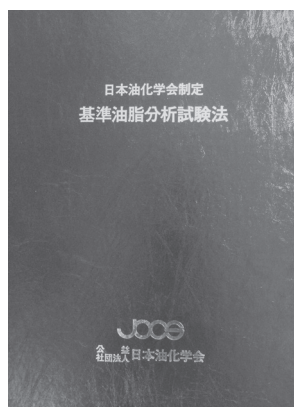
have for these commemorative events.

In discussions of the Steering Committee and Board of Directors, aside from the fixed content each academic year, much time has been consumed by the Society's financial status and ways to improve it. These discussions were unavoidable because coming up with a strategy for the survival of the Society was a pressing task. Since this is New Year's, however, I would like to indulge in a few words about future dreams. With the execution of reform proposals of the Annual Meeting Reform Promotion Committee, I see the annual meeting becoming a place for more active academic discussion, with scholarly contact by university and corporate researchers and students. I picture strengthening of the secretariat support system for the annual meeting, which we are requesting of Mr. Kuwata, head of the secretariat, and the creation of a system in which the executive committee can concentrate solely on planning the annual meeting. In my dream the problems of the Society's financial situation and declining membership also disappear. Time is spent during discussions by the Board of Directors on academic activities and planning public relations activities, returning the JOCS as soon as possible to its previous position of focusing solely on the advancement of oleo science.

Last autumn I visited Kathmandu for attending an international conference. On an excursion we visited the ancient city of Bhaktapur 12 km away by bus from the meeting site. There was terrible traffic congestion because of the lack of signals, and it took us about an hour to arrive. The streets of the ancient city were thick with the smell of moist soil. This reminded me of the smells (not pleasant odors) of the narrow alley on the north side of our house when I was a child, something that I had completely forgotten living in Tokyo. I felt a sense of time like that from my childhood, when time moved slowly and I could play seemingly forever. Experiencing this space made me want to try and slow down and be a little more relaxed and deliberate in both my research and university work and society activities this year. I also intend to like to take a more solid, measured approach in the administration of the JOCS. I look forward to a good year with you all.

(Prof. of Tokyo University of Science)

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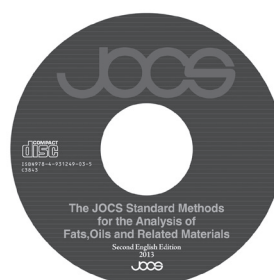
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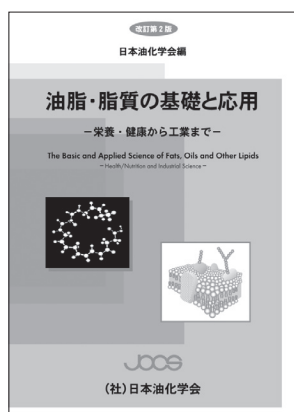
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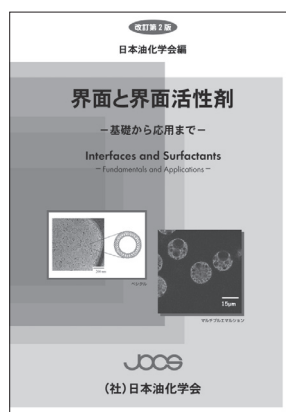
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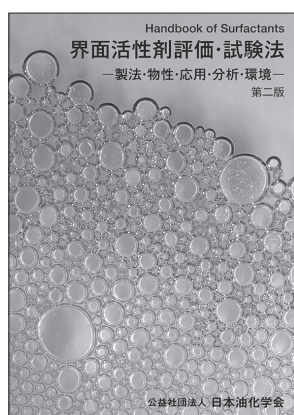
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お問い合わせ先

公益社団法人日本油化学会事務局

〒103-0027 東京都中央区日本橋 3-13-11 油脂工業会館内

TEL : 03-3271-7463 FAX : 03-3271-7464 E-mail : yukagaku@jocs-office.or.jp