



Happy Twentieth Anniversary

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I am pleased to be asked to write this foreword, commemorating the twentieth anniversary issue of the Japanese Journal of Flow Injection Analysis (JFIA). I do so from the perspective of having observed at first hand the many contributions of Japanese researchers and practitioners over the years to the development and application of flow injection analysis.

My first contact with a Japanese researcher in flow injection was in 1982 when Professor Takeshi Yamane visited me at the University of Washington on his return to Yamanashi University, following a sabbatical with Professor Horacio Mottola at Oklahoma State University. I have followed his work and that of his many Japanese colleagues in the area of FIA since then. Jarda Ruzicka and I have been privileged to have a number of Japanese colleagues spend time in our laboratories, including Yasukazu Asano, Kenyu Kina, Shigenori Nakano, Syouhei Nishihama, and Takeshi Yamane.

The late Professor Nobohiko Ishibashi was certainly an early pioneer in introducing FIA in Japan through his research and writing. He, together with Dr. Norimasa Yoza, translated the first edition of Ruzicka and Hansen's "Flow Injection Analysis" into Japanese in 1983. It was an honor that I was invited to give the N. Ishibashi Memorial Lecture at the 19th National Meeting of the JAFIA [1]. I remember the wonderful hospitality shown to me by my hosts, and in particular by Dr. (now Professor) Asano, who gave me a tour of Japan.

The years 1983 and 1984 were banner ones for FIA in Japan. Dr. Kina and Professor Keihei Ueno coauthored a Japanese monograph on FIA in 1983. And the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA) was founded in 1984, with the launching of the JFIA, the only journal dedicated to FIA and an important conduit for dissemination of leading FIA research throughout the world. The annual compilation of FIA literature in the journal is an important resource for the scientific community. The first editor was Professor N. Ishibashi (1984-1991), followed by Professor Hiroko Wada (1992-1995) and Professor Takuji Kawashima (1996-1997), passing the title in 1998 to Tadao Sakai, who has nurtured the journal to continued growing prominence. We look forward to the leadership of Professor Toshihiko Imato, who represents the new generation of leading Japanese researchers in FIA. I know the journal will continue to grow in good hands!

The first Chair of the JAFIA was also Professor N. Ishibashi (1994-1991). The second was Professor Yosuke Ohkura (1991-1993), and in 1994 Shoji Motomizu was elected. The JAFIA has been key to promoting FIA in Japan, through its semi-annual meetings. Its annual JAFIA Award presented to Japanese researchers is special. JAFIA members were strong supporters of the Winter Conference on Flow Injection Analysis (WCFA, now ICFIA) in its early days. It was an important milestone for the conference when the JAFIA joined as co-sponsor in 1995 for the first ICFIA/JAFIA meeting, as one of the JAFIA semi-annual meetings. Japanese participants always represent the largest national contingent. The following joint conferences have been held:

1. August, 1995, Seattle, Washington
2. January, 1997, Orlando, Florida
3. August, 1998, Seattle, Washington
4. June, 1999, Prague, Czech Republic
5. December, 2001, Chiang Mai, Thailand

We look forward to the next joint meeting in Merida, Venezuela in December, 2003.

The leading role of Japanese contributions to FIA and related flow techniques was recognized when Japan was selected to host the 5th International Conference on Flow Analysis (Flow Analysis V) in Kumamoto in 1991, organized by Professor Ishibashi.

My congratulations to Shoji Motomizu for his outstanding leadership of the JAFIA for the past nine years, and to Tadao Sakai for his effective editing of the JFIA. And congratulations to Tadao for being selected to fill the shoes of Shoji as the new Chair of the JAFIA, very big shoes, indeed, but no one is better suited to fill them!

With best wishes to all my friends and colleagues,
[1] G. D. Christian, *J. Flow Injection Anal.*, **11**, 2 (1994).