

## The 15th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis – ICFIA 2008



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The 15th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis including related techniques (ICFIA 2008) was held at the Nagoya Garden Palace Hotel, Nagoya, Japan between September 28 and October 3, 2008 – together with the 25th Anniversary meeting of the Japanese Association for Flow Injection Analysis (JAFIA). The conference was probably the most successful one in its history (first nine ones being organized only in the USA, the latest ones in Prague, Czech Republic 1999; Chiang Mai, Thailand 2001; Merida, Venezuela 2003; Las Vegas, USA 2005 and finally in Berlin, Germany in 2007), bringing together the record number of participants – more than 180 from 18 countries, representing five continents.

The ICFIA 2008 was co-organized by Tadao Sakai, Aichi Institute of Technology and President of JAFIA, and Shoji Motomizu, Okayama University and Past-President of JAFIA. No doubts that a huge organizing work – before the conference and during the conference week – was done by many of his colleagues. Among many of them, it is necessary to highlight some names: Norio Teshima (Aichi Institute of Technology), Toshio Takayanagi (Okayama University) and Toshihiko Imato (Kyushu University). They precisely organized the whole conference week, with many details, so that the conference programme was smooth and all sessions started and finished on-time like the Japanese high-speed train Shinkansen.

The ICFIA conferences are known for its informality and relaxed atmosphere, which catalyzes close

interactions among FIA and SIA practitioners from around the world. Therefore the participants very much appreciated friendly organization and hospitality with perfect choice of the conference venue at Nagoya Garden Palace Hotel, based on “all in one” concept, where everything – the whole scientific programme, accommodation, meals and part of the social programme were located in the same hotel “under one roof”. This enabled the participants to stay together during the whole conference and discuss deeply about the possibilities of cooperation, changing the ideas, etc.

The scientific programme consisted of about 40 oral presentations and almost 120 posters covering a range of flow injection, sequential injection, multi-syringe injection and similar related techniques, including novel instrumentation, software and database developments, and spectrophotometric, luminescence, atomic spectrometric, and electrochemical advances and applications to environmental, pharmaceutical, biological and biotech samples. Among the hot-topics, three promising areas were recognized – application of flow methods as a tool for sample preparation, searching for different approaches for separation of compounds of interest in low-pressure flow methods and application of the flow methods for the analysis of biological materials. It was also noticeable in many lectures and posters that an extend range of methods were intensively utilizing so called “flow manipulation” – as the key principle in flow methods. More details about the scientific programme can be found in detailed report about ICFIA 2008

published by Gary D. Christian: FIA celebrates significant anniversaries, *Trends in Analytical Chemistry* (2008), doi: 10.1016/j.trac.2008.10.011. and in the special issue of *Talanta* planned to be available in spring of 2009.

As the ICFIA 2008 conference was organized together with the 25th anniversary meeting of JAFIA, several awards were presented to the outstanding scientists. The “FIA Award for Young Researchers” was presented to Yasuhiro Iida (Kanagawa Institute of Technology, Japan) and Jaroon Jakmunee (Chiang Mai University, Thailand). The “FIA Award for Science” was presented to Keiro Higuchi (Ogawa Company), Shukuro Igarashi (Ibaraki University), Hideyuki Itabashi (Gunma University), Hideji Tanaka (Tokushima University), Hiroyuki Ukeda (Kochi University), Orawon Chailapakul (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand), Jin-Ming Lin (Tsinghua University, China), and Ian McKelvie (Monash University, Australia). The “FIA Honour Award for Science” was presented to Hiroki Haraguchi (Nagoya University), Kiyoko Takayama (Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences), Marcela Burguera (University of Los Andes, Venezuela), Victor Cerdà (University of the Balearic Islands, Spain), J. C. F. Costa Lima (University of Porto, Portugal), Purnendu Dasgupta (University of Texas at Arlington, USA), Kate Grudpan (Chiang Mai University, Thailand),

Miroslav Polášek (Charles University, Czech Republic) and Juergen Simon (Free University of Berlin, Germany), Paul Worsfold (University of Plymouth, United Kingdom) and Elias A. G. Zagatto (Universidade de São Paulo, Brasil).

The Social programme of the ICFIA 2008 conference started with a friendly reception with traditional Japanese food and drinks at the Motoyama Campus of Aichi Institute of Technology. In the middle of the conference, after a demanding scientific programme, the participants were taken for the sightseeing tour outside the Nagoya. All of us very much enjoyed an all-day excursion to the mountainous Hida region of [Gifu Prefecture](#), where we stopped at two beautifully preserved historical towns - Takayama and Shirakawa-go. The ICFIA 2008 in Nagoya was finished by the conference banquet presided over by Hiroyuki Ukeda and Hideyuki Itabashi, which was organized with traditional Japanese music, Japanese food and drinks. The fantastic atmosphere of the evening and hospitality of organizers was highlighted by a party game Bingo, with a lot of Japanese souvenirs for lucky winners. We will have this evening in our memories for a long time!

The next International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis is planned to be held in Thailand in 2010, to be hosted by a group from the Thai Association for Flow Based Analysis.