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## Preface

The Research Institute for Catalysis, Hokkaido University, was organized in 1943, and reached its 25th anniversary on January 30, 1968. It is the world's first organization devoted solely to fundamental catalytic research. The Hokkaido University is one of the biggest universities in Japan, having twelve faculties and four research institutes. The Research Institute for Catalysis is one of the institutes of Hokkaido University.

The main objective of the Institute is to advance the science of catalysis by studying the basic mechanisms of reactions with special reference to the adsorption of chemical species involved and to the structure of catalysts, and, on the basis of the information thus obtained, to predict suitable catalysts for desired reactions.

The first director was Emeritus Professor K. OGUMA, a famous zoologist, who retired in 1948. He was also the director of the Research Institute for the Low Temperature Science and was the Dean of Faculty of Science of the University. Emeritus Professor J. HORIUTI, elected to the President of the Hokkaido University in May of 1967, was largely responsible for the organization of the Institute and was the Director of our Institute from 1948 till 1965. His outstanding works in the field of catalytic science and electrochemistry have thrown the guiding light on the researches in our Institute.

The staff of our Institute is 56 people, *i. e.* 22 chemists, 3 physicists, 16 technical assistants and 15 administrative workers. Fourteen graduate students are working in the advanced studies.

The research works in progress are:

- (I) Experimental studies
  - (1) Structure of solid catalysts and their surfaces
  - (2) Adsorption of gases on solid surfaces
  - (3) Heterogeneous catalytic reactions such as ammonia synthesis, hydrogenation and dehydrogenation, water gas shift reaction
  - (4) Electrochemistry and electrocatalysis
  - (5) Organic reactions and acid-base catalysis
  - (6) Biological catalysis
- (II) Theoretical studies
  - Theory of chemical kinetics, adsorption, molecular structure and solid state physics

Journal "Shokubai" was published in Japanese by the Institute until 1959, and later by the Society of Catalysis of Japan. Since 1946, the Institute has published the periodical, "Journal of Research Institute for Catalysis of Hokkaido University", the first periodical on catalysis in English.

More than six hundred papers have been published by the staff of the Institute from 1943 through 1968, nearly one hundred of these in "Shokubai", more than two hundred in English in the Journal mentioned above, and the remaining in a variety of scientific journals in the world.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Institute, the editorial office has planned to publish the Anniversary Issue in this Journal. We wish to express our hearty thanks for the contribution of so many important papers to the Issue by distinguished catalytic scientists.

T. TOYA

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Sapporo, Japan  
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