

Topic 1. Breadth of Chemistry

(1) Expansion of chemistry Frontier

As the extent of knowledge is enlarged, new learned societies have been inaugurated in the last half century in Japan and now there exist a considerable number of chemistry related societies in Japan other than The Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ). For example, The Japan Society for Analytical Chemistry, The Society of Polymer Science, Japan, Japan Oil Chemists' Society, Pesticide Science Society of Japan, The Electrochemical Society of Japan, The Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan, Catalysis Society of Japan, The Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, Japan Society for Bioscience, Biotechnology and Agro-chemistry, and The Japanese Biochemical Society are the relatively major ones among others. These societies are independent of CSJ and have their own science journals and hold annual symposia and seminars. Kinki Chemical Society of Japan is a regional chemical society in Kyoto and Osaka and their neighbor prefectures, which is independent of CSJ, although CSJ has a regional branch covering the same area. Furthermore, a number of much smaller societies particularly for focused areas are being launched even now. Consequently chemists in Japan belong to several learned societies.

However, as research activity rapidly expands into interdisciplinary fields, new ways to support such activity and to promote exchange of information in such fields are required rather than to increase the number of societies. CSJ should take the major role in organizing these new and active fields. We would like to discuss what should be the strategy of a major chemical society for these interdisciplinary fields.

(2) Membership merits

Except for those who participate in the annual meeting and /or symposia held by CSJ or those who serve on committees of either the headquarters or branches, being a member of CSJ may be just for receiving its membership journal every month. As chemical technology prevails into every part of life and industry, the range and type of work that members of CSJ engage in become more and more diversified. As a result, the possibility for contents of the journal to be of particular interest to each individual member is lessened. It is also a serious matter that printed journals are becoming less popular as an information source for young researchers. CSJ has been looking for a new service its members will appreciate. We would like to discuss role of the chemical societies and the incentive and benefit that can be offered to members of each chemical society. .

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