

Advanced topics of 15th International Congress of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry ICTAC15

Guest Editor



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Preface

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It gives me a great pleasure to introduce this special issue of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry. This compilation is based on the selected and peer-reviewed papers of the 15th International Congress on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ICTAC15). The international congress was held jointly with the 48th Japanese Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis at Kinki University in Higashi-Osaka in August of 2012. The Congress attracted quite a large number of attendees from around the world. Papers covered most of the various branches within the field of thermal analysis and calorimetry as well as numerous applications. The presentations were delivered by leading scientists in the field and were very well received.

In this congress, we held a commemorative special session honoring the centennial anniversary of Honda's thermogravimetry as well as the 50th anniversary of Ozawa's kinetic method. It is well known that thermogravimetry (TG) was developed by Professor Kotaro Honda (Tohoku Imperial University) in 1916 and it was his great breakthrough from which a century's worth of research has since transpired. Another important event occurred in 1965 when Dr. Takeo Ozawa developed the kinetic theory for TG. Since these two scientific breakthroughs occurred almost a century and half century ago, the congress devoted to a special session to honor these two world-famous scientists. Honda's thermobalance, which is currently being exhibited at the Tokyo Institute of Technology Museum, was transported to IC-TAC15 and put on display. Due to the hard work of many colleagues at ICTAC15, it was the first time ever to watch the operation of Honda's thermobalance. Surprisingly, we could observe how the old balance could work. Also, the TG gave highly precise data that was nearly as accurate as today's high-tech equipment. It was truly remarkable that a piece of equipment produced almost 100 years ago could still work with such precision. The exhibit allowed us all the opportunity to know more about Professor Honda and see firsthand the many fundamental considerations in his development process. Of course, Honda's contribution provided a guideline for subsequent equipment as well as research concerning thermal physical properties, and the analysis of stoichiometry, or kinetic theory.

In order to organize ICTAC15, we received great financial support from many companies and academic societies. The congress was a success, in part, due to assistance from the Kinki University administration. Also, we received enormous cooperation from more than 400 Kinki University students. On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to thank Kinki University, its staff, administration, and student body for their gracious cooperation. Without their cooperation and assistance, there is no doubt that ICTAC15 would not have been such a big success!

Many young scientists attended this congress. We expect much from these young researchers in the twenty-first century, knowing that they will add much to the already large body of knowledge in the field. Also, I was pleased to observe that the joint session of ICTAC15 and the 48th JCCTA promoted both international cooperative activities as well as friendship among the many attendees.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the authors for their contributions to this journal. Moreover, the reviewers deserve our gratitude on behalf of JTAC for their hard word. All the authors responded quickly to the reviewers' comments allowing this journal to be published in such a timely manner. Last but not least, thanks are due to Professor Judit Simon (Editor-in-Chief), Dr. Imre Miklós Szilágyi (Editor), as well as the many coworkers of the Scientific Office.

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