

Chemical Industry Supports Other Industries, says JCIA Chairman Fujiyoshi at IYC-Commemoration Symposium Organized by Chemical Daily



To commemorate the International Year of Chemistry, a symposium was held in Tokyo on October 27-28, 2011. Organized by The Chemical Daily Co., Ltd., the symposium included an exhibition from the Japan Chemical Industry Association (JCIA) on chemical products that contribute to the society, presenting the history of Japan's chemical industry, as well as the various activities of JCIA, with a chronology display and audio-video materials.

On the opening day of the symposium, JCIA Chairman Kenji Fujiyoshi, along with Japan Petroleum Industry Association Chairman Kyohei Takahashi, delivered keynotes. That same day, a panel discussion was held featuring presidents and CEOs from the top five integrated chemical companies, including Yoshimitsu Kobayashi, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation. On the second day, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Hideki Shirakawa of Tsukuba University delivered a guest speech, followed by a panel discussion with four female chemists on the future and achievements of women in chemistry.

With an underlying theme to "Support the 'Now, Create the 'Future'", JCIA Chairman Fujiyoshi outlined the direction the chemical industry is headed, pointing out, "The focus of competition has shifted from products over to materials for parts and components, where the chemical industry concentrates its efforts. And as a leading industry that has helped with global issues such as shortage of food and water, there is great opportunity for the chemical industry in the future."

Meanwhile, a panel discussion with the top management of five leading chemical manufacturers on the topic of the present and future state of the chemical industry attracted over 500 attendants. During the two-hour discussion, the panelists exchanged their thoughts on functional chemicals and a possible alliance among chemical companies in Japan. Looking into the future, the panelists agreed, "We should not be satisfied as a supplier of materials for parts and components, but rather, we should be focused on exploring new business by taking leadership."