Yamada Conference LXVI
International conference on nanostructure-enhanced photo-energy conversion
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A closing remark in the Banquet

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Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am much honored to speak two points as a closing remark. In Europe Nobel symposium, Solvay Symposium, and others are well known as traditional and high level meetings organized by private foundations. In Japan we also have had such meetings and the most representative one is Yamada Conference. This Conference is supported by Yamada Science Foundation which was established in 1977 in Osaka based on the generosity of Mr. Kiro Yamada. Mr. Yamada was the president of Rohto Pharmaceutical Company Limited and recognized that creative, unconstrained, basic research is indispensable for the future welfare and prosperity of mankind and he has been deeply concerned with its promotion. Today I went to a drug store and bought this eye lotion prepared by Rohto Pharmaceutical Company to show it to you. Please note that Rohto Company is not top-class (sorry to Mr. Yamada) as a pharmaceutical industry, so this Conference indicates how Mr. Yamada sincerely considered the importance of science. Indeed I know that his son was a professor of Osaka University in Toyonaka campus and a famous solid state physicist, as I was a research associate in the same campus and saw him at that time.

I visited the WEB site of Yamada Science Research Foundation and understood that 65 conferences had been organized till 2012 and mostly related to physics. I found our memorial professors in the list of the Conferences as a Chair of chemistry-related conference, Prof. Yonezo Morino in 1979 and Prof. Hideo Akamatu in 1980. In 1991 Prof. Noboru Mataga, my supervisor, organized Yamada Conference on Dynamics and Mechanism of Photoinduced Electron Transfer and related Phenomena and I worked as an organizing committee member. We published its proceedings from Norht-Holland. Here I will ask you to pay your attention to the fact that the chemistry-related conferences are minor (about 10 %) as the Yamada Conference and Prof. Hiroaki Misawa, our organizer, is the first chairperson from Hokkaido University. Also from this viewpoint we would like to thank Professor Misawa and organizers for their great efforts.

Please allow me to talk a little about my research history. In chemistry time-resolution has received much attention while space-resolution did not. I myself started my carrier as a physical photochemist using pulsed lasers; initially nanosecond laser photolysis, then picosecond, and later femtosecond. The improvement of time-resolved spectroscopy and photochemistry was one of our works, while I felt some saturation in this trend. In 1988 I had a chance to conduct a big JST ERATO project under which I could hire 15 posdocs with 2 billion JPY, when I decided to start time-and space-resolved chemistry; ps-μm chemistry at that time. Tonight I have no time to talk about this story, but I clearly say that the ps-μm chemistry is now developed to nm-fs chemistry as you see in this Conference. My decision in middle 1980's is confirmed now. This area is now so important in physical chemistry, which is clearly demonstrated here as we have the former and present editor-in-chiefs of Journal of Physical Chemistry, Prof. M. A. El-Sayed and G. C. Shatz as plenary lecturers here. It is very difficult to say about our future science, but I believe that our efforts along the stories presented here will surely be promising.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. Good night!