The 60th anniversary of Fumio Hirata

On March 17, 2007 Fumio Hirata celebrated his 60th birthday. On this occasion the Editorial Board of "Condensed Matter Physics" decided to honour him with a collection of scientific papers. With great pleasure numerous researchers, colleagues and co-workes of Fumio have contributed their articles. The Editorial Board of "Condensed Matter Physics" express sincere gratitude to all of them. The highly skilled contributions are connected with the development of liquid state theory, its different applications in chemistry and biology and other fields which are close to F. Hirata's interest during many years of his scientific activity.

F. Hirata was born on March 17, 1947 in Nagasaki prefecture in Japan. He started his scientific work at Hokkaido University as experimental chemist. But very soon he comprehended the importance of statistical mechanical theory of liquids in understanding and interpretating the experimental data in physical chemistry and began to work in this field. Having defended his Ph. D. in 1977, the next year he moved to the USA, where he worked in different prestigeous laboratories with such leaders in liquid state theory as Harold Friedman from State University of New York at Stony Brook, Peter Rossky from University of Texas at Austin, Ronald Levy from Rutgers University. In 1989 F. Hirata came back to Japan first as associate professor of Kyoto University and starting from 1996 as Professor of the Institute for Molecular Science in Okazaki.

By the time Fumio Hirata has become one of the major figures in liquid state theory, especially in applying the theory to the understanding and interpretation of different phenomena in chemistry and biology. The characteristic feature of his scientific style is connected with the consideration of real complex molecules with taking into account its molecular structure and real chemical functional groups. He has produced a body of work whose quality, depth, breadth and importance admit a few parallels in theoretical chemistry. Fumio kindly agreed to write his Autobiography which we gladly publish herein together with his bibliography.

Fumio Hirata grants significant attention to the Ukrainian-Japanease scientific collaboration. The permanent and fruitful collaboration of F. Hirata with the Institute for Condensed Matter

Physics (ICMP) of the National Academy of Scientific of Ukraine has been going on since he visited Lviv in 1994 for the first time. After that he visited ICMP several times. A number of Ukrainian scientists from Lviv visited his laboratories in Okazaki as well.

Fumio is a very intelligent, sociable and attractive personality. Apart from liquids he enjoys mountain skiing and other kinds of sports. He is also a very good instructor of sports for young people.

Due to the limit of journal space it was impossible to include herein all the received articles devoted to F. Hirata. Another part of the papers will be published in the next number of this volume.

The Editorial Board of "Condensed Matter Physics" congratulates our good friend and member of the Editorial Board on the occasion of his anniversary and acknowledges his unique and valuable contribution to science. We also wish him to stay in good health, happiness and prosperity.