

Biography of Shiro Kobayashi

Shiro Kobayashi studied organic chemistry and polymer chemistry in Kyoto University, where he received BS and MS from Prof. J. Furukawa and PhD from Prof. T. Saegusa in 1969. Then, he worked as a postdoc with Prof. G. A. Olah at Case Western Reserve University for two years. In 1972, he joined Kyoto University as a research associate to start studying polymer synthesis. He stayed as a Humboldt fellow with Prof. H. Ringsdorf at University of Mainz in 1976. Following the lectureship in Kyoto University he was appointed as a full professor at Tohoku University in 1986, starting research on enzymatic polymerization. In 1997, he moved to Kyoto University and officially retired in 2005, to become Emeritus Professor. Since then, he has been a distinguished professor at Kyoto Institute of Technology. His research interests include polymer synthesis and polymeric materials. In particular, his group developed the enzymatic polymerization, which enabled the first chemical synthesis of natural and unnatural polysaccharides like cellulose, xylan, chitin, hyaluronic acid, chondroitin, various functional polyesters, and new aromatics polymers. The method contributes to green polymer chemistry. He received various awards among others: the Award of the Chemical Society of Japan for Young Chemists (1976), the Award of the Society of Polymer Science, Japan (1986), Humboldt Research Award, Germany (1999), the Award of the Chemical Society of Japan (2001), the 30th John Stauffer Distinguished Lecture Award in the Sciences, University of Southern California (2002), Medal with Purple Ribbon (2007, Japanese Government), and The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon (2015, Japanese Government). He is a Foreign Member of Northrhine Westfalian Academy of Sciences since 1999, and American Chemical Society PMSE Fellow (2016). He was a member of Scientific Advisory Board for Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research, Mainz (2001-09). To date, he has been served as editor, regional editor or honorary editor, and as a member of (executive) advisory board or editorial (advisory) board, for twenty four international journals, and currently he is serving for seven journals.