

To the SPSJ members

Kazunori KATAOKA, President

On March 11, a major catastrophe befell eastern Japan, in the shape of a devastating earthquake and consequent tsunami. Moreover, the issue of the nuclear power plant in Fukushima remains precarious even at the time being. I would like to express my deepest condolences for those who lost their lives, and my sympathy for their families. I also extend my heartfelt sorrow to the families of those who remain missing in the aftermath of the disaster.

The Society of Polymer Science, Japan (SPSJ) has decided on March 14 at the Executive Board Meeting to exempt the students who have - or whose families have - suffered major damage as a result of these tragic events from the obligation to pay next year's membership fee.

As such, we are planning to receive applications through the students' supervisors. Please wait for further details. We also wish to calculate the damage incurred to members and their affiliations, and therefore we would appreciate it if you could supply us with any information concerning damage to <email:memb@spsj.or.jp>.

Hopefully details concerning the general situation should become more apparent to the nation in the days ahead. According to the limited information we have received, SPSJ related research institutions located in the disaster-affected areas have been worst hit.

Thus, if you have research instruments / devices which could possibly be handed over or lent to the worst affected areas, we would be most grateful to you for your generosity.

In the meantime, I am pleased to inform you that we are in the process of preparing the 60th SPSJ Annual Meeting (Wednesday, May 25 ~ Friday, May 27, 2011) at Osaka International Convention Center according to original plans.

The SPSJ office is open as usual, so please feel free to contact us if you are in need of any assistance.