

2004

## D. Founding of the Pacific Polymer Federation

Otto Vogl

*University of Massachusetts - Amherst*, [vogl@polysci.umass.edu](mailto:vogl@polysci.umass.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umass.edu/emeritus\\_sw](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/emeritus_sw)

 Part of the [Chemical Engineering Commons](#), and the [Chemistry Commons](#)

---

Otto Vogl. *The History of the Pacific Polymer Federation: Founding of the Pacific Polymer Federation*. Amherst, MA: 2004. Available at:  
[http://works.bepress.com/otto\\_vogl/18](http://works.bepress.com/otto_vogl/18)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in Emeritus Faculty Author Gallery by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@library.umass.edu](mailto:scholarworks@library.umass.edu).

# I. Founding of the Pacific Polymer Federation

---

## Founding

In the early '70's polymer scientists of Japan and the US began to interact and cooperate with each other professionally and also on a personal basis.

Universities of both countries recognized similar interests on common subjects. The polymer communities of Japan and the US communicated also through their professional organizations. In 1974, these interactions were formalized by signing an agreement of cooperation. It was signed by the President of the Society of Polymer Science, Japan (SPSJ), Yoshio Iwakura, and the Chairman of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (PD) Otto Vogl. This cooperation functioned very well and in 1978 the first joint symposium of the two societies was held in Palm Springs with Teiji Tsuruta and William Bailey as the co-chairman. It was a meeting of broad implications and was considered a substantial success.

The Organizing Committee proposed a second SPSJ-PD Symposium to be held Kyoto, Japan in 1985 with Takeo Saegusa and Otto Vogl as co-chairmen. As the preparations were proceeding for this Symposium, many items necessary for a continued successful cooperation had to be reevaluated.

Since this meeting was in Japan, much of the work fell on our Japanese colleagues especially those in Kyoto. These preparations were under the SPSJ Presidency of Saegusa. One day in 1984 Saegusa and I sat down and talked about the Symposium and the effectiveness of the Japan-US cooperation in polymers which was over 10 years old.

The PD, as many other organizations, was run on the initiative and leadership of one person or a small group of people. The SPSJ worked more on the consensus principle. In the SPSJ a number of initiatives for polymer meetings and cooperative activities had been developed in the Orient especially in the Far East, which the SPSJ was obligated to support.

Saegusa told me that bilateral US-Japan meetings between PD and SPSJ might not be needed any longer. Their purpose of promoting direct communications between polymer scientists of Japan and the US had been established. The new generations of Japanese polymer scientists were much more fluent in the scientific language. English and Japanese scientists could afford to attend meetings of the American Chemical Society and other Symposia in the US and abroad. These thoughts seemed to be reasonable. Saegusa and I now discussed the organization of the 2nd US-Japan meeting in Kyoto. It turned out to be much less elaborate than the meeting in Palm Springs. Most importantly, SPSJ had become increasingly involved in bi-lateral contacts with organizations of other nations in the Far East in closer proximity.

In 1984 the ACS meeting was in Hawaii. It was attended by many polymer people of my generation that I knew. One was my friend Fukui. I had lunch with him and his wife at a restaurant overlooking the lobby of the Hotel Waikiki. I had known Fukui since my first stay in Japan 15 years before. Fukui had received the Nobel Prize in 1981 and I was by chance present at the Award Presentation in Stockholm. During lunch I looked down to the ground floor and noticed Saegusa, of SPSJ and O'Donnell, the Chairman of the Polymer Division of the Australian Institute of Chemists walking by in deep discussion. This gave me the obvious idea that what cannot be done any longer on a bilateral basis (SPSJ and PD) might be possible on a regional basis.

The bilateral interactions of SPSJ and PD had fulfilled their usefulness; why not think in regional terms. If we included Australia in our cooperative efforts we would create an organization of polymer scientists from the Pacific Rim countries.

The same day I located Saegusa and O'Donnell and found them very interested in this idea. O'Donnell was the chairman of the Polymer Division of RAIC (~600 members), Saegusa the President of the SPSJ (~12,000 members). I was still the "Foreign Secretary" of the PD (~9,000 members) 10 years after I had held the chairmanship. It was now December 1984. Long friendships of key people often facilitate efficient interactions of organizations. I was not inexperienced in organizing an idea into a workable and legally feasible organization.

I had been very much involved in the formation of the Macromolecular Secretariat of the ACS in 1970 and played a key role in the drafting of the agreement to form CUMIRP, the Center of University of Massachusetts Industrial Cooperative Program on Polymer Research. These were local and National agreements; we expected problems when bringing together an international group of organizations.

What the three of us were proposing initially was an informal agreement that was to be developed into a constitution. The constitution had to reflect clearly the objective of the organization. a.) It was to be a regional organization that provided a forum to interact as groups and ultimately as individuals b.) It was to provide a mechanism of interaction in the fastest growing region of the world, the Pacific Rim, and in the fast growing scientific and technical subject, Polymer Science.

Practically speaking it was an extension of the bilateral SPSJ-PD agreement into a regional body scale with the Australian Polymer group providing the glue. We decided to explore with the parent organizations (which became the Founding Members of PPF) to determine if the organizations were interested and if it was possible to devise a Constitution which could incorporate all the interests of the polymer oriented organizations of the Pacific Basin. Much of the individual writing was done before and during the U.S. - Japan Seminar in October 1985.

We did not know if the organization should be a "strong" organization, or a weaker organization. We started to work on the draft of the constitution and had to go back and forth between the individual organizations. During this period I was once in Kyoto and

had a communication from Seizo Okamura, a famous professor and influential individual of the older generation in the polymer world of Japan. He invited me to have lunch with him at the delightful Japanese style Brighton Hotel. After the normal assurances of friendship he told me: I like the idea of your thinking of creating an association of polymer oriental national organizations. He said: "I know you would like it to be a "strong" organization but you will not succeed. Your organization cannot be a "strong" organization. SPSJ will agree very happily to a weaker organization. We would never agree on the formation of some organization in which we would not have control over our individual members". He agreed that English would be the primary language, but felt it would be better not to specify that point. Have we not seen this principle many times in recent politics??

A strong organization would take the membership as a whole and it would become an organization with strong American leadership, and influence. The immediate problem would be the financing of such an organization. Large membership fees that would be necessary were unaffordable especially for young members. That would limit participation from distant countries. (I had been thinking of Tokyo in Japan as the headquarter of the organization and Hawaii as the meeting place).

What is now the Pacific Polymer Federation (PPF) became the Federation or Confederation of national organizations whose representatives and officers were elected (not appointed in some obscure ways that is done by other organizations) by their members. The national organizations had to be organized, had to have a constitution and officers. Societies had to be primarily interested in Polymer Science and border the Pacific Ocean. As it turned out later the U.S had two different Member Organizations of the PPF, the Polymer Divisions of the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society.

The key members of the proposed new organizations (including the Australians) were properly invited to the second SPSJ-PD meeting at the Heian Kaikan in Kyoto. The first Founding Meeting for the new organization was held in Kyoto on Saturday, July 31, 1985. It was attended by the 6 Founding representatives, O. Vogl, T. Saegusa, J.H. O'Donnell, J.C. Salamone, DJ.T..Hill and A.Abe. Also present were T. Takahiko and Jane C. Vogl representing the Business Offices of the SPSJ and the PD respectively. We had prepared a first draft of a constitution, met with the key members of SPSJ and discussed the draft. We all agreed that about 80% of the draft could be agreed upon but additional work needed to be done. We had our next meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Polymer Science, Japan in May 1986, at which time all parties were present. We continued in New York, in September 1986. There were still some small but important points that needed to be agreed upon. At the Annual Meeting of the Polymer Division of the Australian Institute of Chemistry in February 1987 the details of the Constitution and the subsequent understandings were worked out. We reached the final agreement to establish the Pacific Polymer Federation at Philips Island.

The constitution of the new organization had to be written. Fortunately with our efficient drive to raise funds for this new organization, Joe Salamone, Stan Israel and I were able

to take a trip to Australia and New Zealand. We met with Neil Edmonds, the head of the Polymer Group of New Zealand, and agreed that New Zealand did not need a special council seat and would function together with Australia on the council. This was a very important achievement at the beginning of the attempted creation of PPF. Stan, Joe and I spend three days in Auckland, NZ to reach the agreement. Subsequently, we met in Brisbane Australia with the leaders of the Polymer Group of RAIC and J.H. O'Donnell and D.J.T. Hill, the Founding Members of the Polymer Group of Australia.

The negotiations for the writing of the constitution took place in different locations; In Brooklyn, with Abe, (It must be remembered Abe received his PhD in Brooklyn Poly, worked at Showa Denko, and while being Professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, spent regular periods with IBM in California) and in Australia. As I had mentioned Salamone, Israel and I had settled in our "fact-finding tour" all the questions of the Polymer Division of RAIC.

Bob Shanks had become the President of the Polymer group RAIC. The annual meeting was on Phillips Island near Melbourne and I was the Plenary speaker. At the appropriate time in Japan in the morning, Bob said to me. Now you pick up the phone and tell them we agree with the SPSJ on all the items that were still in question.

This was in the beginning of February, it was hot at the meeting sites, about 40 C but we celebrated our achievements on Philips Island in the sanctuary of the Koala bears, the symbol of Australia and viewed the hundreds of penguins who have large nesting grounds on the island.

For us Americans, the PD, it was not so easy to join a regional organization. We had to have the unanimous vote of the Executive Committee of PD but also the consensus of the American Chemical Society from our home base and its Executive Committee. William Bailey, the recent President of the ACS helped us to obtain the cooperation of the ACS. To be sure that all the legal aspects of the constitution conformed with American laws, I asked a friend of mine to check it. Earl Tyner, Esq, who had been a patent attorney at DuPont and who had written several of my patent cases at DuPont made sure that the constitution was legally correct. Tyner was then a member of a law firm in Crystal City, VA, The negotiations were done before fax machines were available, overseas phone calls were expensive and much thought had to go into the preparation of the document. At the same time, the organizations and individuals involved in the negotiations had time to realize how important the development of the PPF was for Polymer Science and for the interests of polymer oriented organizations and individuals of the Pacific region.

It was a good idea to start with 3 Founding Members only. It was enough of a headache to agree on the wording and the finer points of the constitution. Each of the organizations had to take into account their own way of thinking. The SPSJ was a typical oriental organization with its own tradition while the Australians and Americans were thinking in a Western tradition.

The creation of PPF was not easy. It involved organizations of various backgrounds and various sizes. The Australian polymer group was very much British oriented. Every important scientist had spent some time for study or on sabbatical leave in the UK. The PPF creation was for the Australians a great opportunity to become more oriented toward Japan and the USA. Some later joining polymer groups at that time did not yet have a society set up acceptable for becoming Members of PPF. Examples were the organizations from Vietnam, Thailand and Chile.

Some polymer organizations were divisions of larger national organizations usually associated with chemistry. Even the founding Members were diverse. PD is associated with ACS, the Polymer group in Australia with RAIC. SPSJ is an independent Society. These organizations had functioned well for decades. Other polymer groups were not formally organized and depended on the ambitions and initiative of individuals to become functional. In such cases the concern arose: What might happen if something were to happen to these key individuals. Even for a "weak" organization, the permanence had to be secured. One of the purposes and objectives of the PPF was to have orderly cooperation among the individual national polymer organizations.

Finances were needed for the initial expenses in the creation of PPF. Since much of the initiative was in American hands the people responsible for the creation had to have funds available to set up the organization and travel to meetings for some financial support. When we asked our own home organization if they were willing to provide financial support for the creation and organization of PPF, the PD refused. We, the American part of the Founding Committee, needed to have enough funds to travel to negotiate with the other organizations to reach the agreement to found PPF. Otto Vogl started a fundraising campaign to support the operation of PPF and to have funds available for the preparation for the First Pacific Polymer Conference (PPC-1) in Maui.

We decided to raise funds from industry and manage them as a separate and independent foundation. We created a tax free foundation PPF Inc., which became the money holding Foundation of the US part of the PPF, with the 4 of us as directors. PPF Inc. was in the hands of Joseph C. Salamone, Stanley Israel, with Otto Vogl as the Chairman. Jane C. Vogl was tending the office and the funds.

First we contacted industrial companies and asked support for our undertaking and received a total of about \$ 65,000 from E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Ford Motor Company, Exxon Chemical Company, Himont Incorporated, Merck & Co., Inc., BASF Corporation, Hoechst Celanese Research Division, The Proctor & Gamble Company, Rohm and Haas Company, Polaroid Corporation, The Dow Chemical Company, Allied Signal. PPG Industries, Inc., General Electric Company, Amoco Corporation, and International Business Machines.

Polytechnic University through my Mark Chair complex provided office space and telephone service and the rest was provided from the funds that had been collected. Actively involved in the founding of PPF were also Ray Ottenbrite and William Bailey, who was particularly important for the writing of the constitution. About 10 years before

he had been ACS President and was very familiar with the internal functioning of ACS: what could be done and what should not be attempted.

On Philips Island we agreed that the signing ceremony would be in the Fall of 1987 during the Annual Symposium of SPSJ in Tokyo. Our Japanese colleagues, SPSJ was charged to organize the signing ceremony. Riichiro Chujo of the Tokyo Institute of Technology was the local chairman for the Annual Symposium in Tokyo, Japan.

It was an eventful period. I stayed at the Akasaka Prince Hotel near the meeting site. The signing was scheduled for Monday morning, October 19, 1987, in the International House in Roppongi, Tokyo. The ceremony was joyfully celebrated. We still have the video tapes of all the events showing the birth of the Pacific Polymer Federation. The General Secretary of SPSJ, Takeshi Takahiko, was the star photographer of SPSJ. Who can forget that day, in the US called the black Monday. The New York Stock Market plummeted 23%; on the other hand my friend Charlie Pederson received the Nobel Prize of Chemistry for his invention of cyclic ethers as complexing agents of the cations of inorganic salts.

The Constitution of the Pacific Polymer Federation was signed on October 19, 1987 in Tokyo, Japan at the Inter-national House in Roppongi, Tokyo by the Chairman of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry, S. R. Eby, and the Chair-man of the Foreign Affairs Committee, O. Vogl; by the President of the Society of Polymer Science Japan, M. Takayanagi; Chairman and Vice President for International Affairs, A. Abe. For the Polymer Division of the Royal Australian Institute of Chemistry, Chairman D.J.T. Hill and Chair-man of the International Committee, J.H. O'Donnell signed the Constitution.

The PPF was created as an organization to advance and benefit polymer science and technology in the Pacific Basin; it has as its objectives to encourage and facilitate: i.) Interaction between polymer organizations of the Pacific Basin; and ii.) Exchange of scientific knowledge, by participation in national meetings, and by visits of polymer scientists of the Pacific. The membership of the PPF is open to all societies and associations of scientists and engineers which have at least part of their activities devoted to polymer science and/or technology.

It was very gratifying to see a regional organization involving the Polymer Scientists of the Pacific region come into being. Polymer Science was recognized on this occasion as one of the fastest growing scientific and technological disciplines and the Pacific Basin the fastest growing region scientifically, technologically and economically in the world. It was only logical, that the organizations of the region found mechanisms of cooperation facilitating the interaction between individual scientists. Since the first years of interaction between the organizations and Council Members, representing the organizations, a great deal has been accomplished which proves that the concept, the dream of a smoothly functioning regional cooperation in polymer science, could be and had been established.

Otto Vogl, The Pacific Polymer Federation. Progress in Pacific Polymer Science, B.C. Anderson and Y. Imanishi eds., Springer Verlag, p.3 (1991).

---

## **Constitution**

### **1. NAME AND OBJECTIVE**

1.1 The name of the organization shall be the Pacific Polymer Federation, hereafter called the FEDERATION; it shall be an organization to advance and benefit polymer science and technology.

1.2 The objectives of the FEDERATION shall be to encourage and facilitate:

- i. Interaction between polymer organizations involving the Pacific.
- ii. Exchange of scientific knowledge, participation in national polymer meetings, and visits by polymer scientists of the Pacific.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION**

2.1 The Founding members of the FEDERATION shall be: (i) The Society of Polymer Science, Japan;

(ii) The Division of Polymer Chemistry, Inc., American Chemical Society,- (iii) The Polymer Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

2.2 Membership of the FEDERATION shall be open to all societies and associations of scientists and engineers, geographically situated in, or near, the Pacific Basin, which have at least part of their activities devoted to polymer science and/or technology.

2.3 Member organizations shall not be committed by any action in conflict with their charters, constitutions, or bylaws or those of their parent organizations.

2.4 Other societies or associations, meeting the requirements of Section 2.2, shall be encouraged to join the FEDERATION. The societies or associations may apply to join the FEDERATION by sending its application to the Council (defined by Section 3.2). The organization will be admitted by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Council. The membership will become effective on January 1 following the vote of admission.

2.5 There shall be no regular annual subscription required of member organizations.

2.6 A member organization may resign from the FEDERATION by submitting its resignation in writing to the President of the FEDERATION at least one year in advance.

### **3. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

3.1 The operating year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

### 3.2 Council

- i. The FEDERATION shall be administered by a Council consisting of a maximum of ten members- the Council members shall serve for a two-year term.
- ii. Each of the Founding organizations shall have two representatives, and each of the Nonfounding organizations shall have one representative on the Council.
- iii. When the number of the Council members reaches ten, the Council will establish a rotation of the Council seats among the representatives of the Nonfounding organizations; the composition of the Council shall be reconsidered after ten years.
- iv. The Council shall elect a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer for a term of two years. One reelection shall be permitted.
- v. The Council shall appoint all committees and committee members to conduct such matters as may be delegated to them.

### 3.3 Duties of the Council

- i. The Council shall conduct all the business of the FEDERATION. The Council shall meet at least once per year.
- ii. Decisions of the Council must be by a majority vote, with a minimum of one half of the total Council members constituting a quorum for the vote, provided at least one member of each of the Founding organizations is present.
- iii. No Council decisions requiring a specific course of action by a participating organization shall be valid without the approval of the members or proxy delegates of that organization.
- iv. Expenses of the Council members incurred through participation in Council meetings may be provided by the treasury of the FEDERATION or the member organization.

### 3.4 Officers

The officers of the FEDERATION shall be the President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

### 3.5 President

- i. The President shall be elected by the FEDERATION Council as stated in Section 3.2.iv. The President shall be the chairman of the Council.
- ii. The duties of the President shall be to coordinate the activities of the FEDERATION and to maintain contact with the member organization through their representatives on the Council. The President shall prepare an annual report on the activities of the FEDERATION.
- iii. In the case of the President's inability to serve, his duties shall be assumed by the Vice-President.

### 3.6 Vice-President

The Vice-President shall be elected by the FEDERATION Council from its members as stated in Section 3.2.iv. In the absence of the President, the duties of that office shall be assumed by the Vice-President.

### 3.7 Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the FEDERATION Council from its members as stated in Section 3.2.iv.

### 3.8 Committees

All committees and committee members shall be appointed by the Council. Expenses incurred in performing their duties will be borne when possible by the organizations to which the individual members belong.

## 4. FINANCIAL BUSINESS

The FEDERATION shall cover its activities through the support by external funds. Such funds may be used for attendance of representatives at Council meetings, and/or to sponsor FEDERATION activities. The President shall report the financial status of the FEDERATION at every Council meeting. The extent of the activities of the FEDERATION shall be determined annually by the Council of the FEDERATION.

## 5. OPERATION OF THE FEDERATION

5.1. The Council of the FEDERATION shall be operated by regularly scheduled meetings and by correspondence. Council meetings shall be scheduled by agreement of a majority of the Council. The member organization may appoint properly qualified proxy delegate(s), who will have voting right(s), to attend meetings of the Council.

5.2 The FEDERATION may organize international meetings or conferences on any aspect of polymer science and technology. The organization of conferences may involve all or some of the member organizations of the FEDERATION. These may be of the following types:

i. Meetings of international standing and interest organized by national bodies and sponsored by the FEDERATION:

To achieve FEDERATION sponsorship, a plan of the meeting must be submitted to the President of the FEDERATION for consideration by the Council, which may suggest modifications before approval is given. The financial management of the meeting shall be the responsibility of the organizing national body. Members of all national bodies affiliated to the FEDERATION who wish to attend a meeting sponsored by the FEDERATION shall be treated as if they were members of the organizing national body.

ii. Meetings of international interest, conceived and promoted by the Council:

Although the initiative of such meetings shall reside with the Council, the organization of such meetings shall be delegated to the Council members of the chosen country of venue. The financing of the meetings, together with the acceptance of any profit or loss, may be accepted by the participating body or bodies of the hosting country. Alternatively, financing may be organized by the Council through external funding.

5.3 The policy of the FEDERATION toward publication of the proceedings of any of its meetings shall be determined principally by the publication policy of the organizing national body or bodies. Prominent recognition of the FEDERATION sponsorship shall accompany all such publications.

5.4 The FEDERATION may produce a bulletin (or other forms of information) for distribution to members and other interested organizations.

5.5 The Council may plan and execute other activities of interest to the FEDERATION.

## 6. AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION

Any member organization of the FEDERATION may propose an amendment to the Constitution of the FEDERATION by submitting it in writing to the President of the FEDERATION. Adoption of an amendment to the Constitution shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Council.

## 7. DISSOLUTION OF THE FEDERATION

The FEDERATION may be dissolved only by a unanimous vote of the Council of the FEDERATION. Prior to dissolution of the FEDERATION all debts of the FEDERATION must be discharged and all its affairs settled.