

Preface

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PBAST-6, the 6th Pacific Basin Conference on Adsorption Science and Technology, was held May 20–23, 2012 at Taipei, Taiwan. This is a triennial event that was inaugurated in Japan (Katsumi Kaneko, 1997), and has traveled through Australia (Duong D. Do, 2000), Korea (Chang-Ha Lee, 2003), China (Li Zhou, 2006) and Singapore (Chi-Bun Ching, 2009). With the Taipei event and the planned one at Hong Kong in 2015, we have practically traveled through most major cities on the west bank of the Pacific.

Following the tradition of scientific excellence, international attendance and active personal interactions set forth by Katsumi Kaneko in the first meeting, and continued by all the latter conferences, the PBAST-6 attracted more than 250 delegates from 28 countries plus some 25 accompanying persons. The conference was also honored by the attendances of Professor Pingdong Wu (Professor Emeritus of Zhejiang University), Professor Motoyuki Suzuki (Professor Emeritus of University of Tokyo) and Professors Yi-Hua Ma (James H. Manning Professor of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA). In the early 1980's, they have jointly started a series of "China-Japan-USA joint conference" on fundamentals of adsorption. After several triennial meetings, the joint conference was broadened to include other Pacific basin countries and became the current PBAST.

The PBAST-6 program consisted of 47 invited speakers distributed in 21 sessions, making up a total of 136 oral presentations and 92 posters. Three distinguished keynote lectures; Ralph Yang on "clean Energy by adsorption", Alois

Jungbauer on "adsorption of proteins on hydrophobic surface" and Cary T. Chiou on "Soil contamination levels versus soil contamination intensities of organic contaminants", highlighted the central theme of the conference. These are targeting at the most important issues the world is facing, namely the global warming, the energy shortage, the aging population and the deteriorating environment. Various new processes and adsorbents have been presented for the separation of CO₂, the production of clean energy, the separation of pharmaceutical active ingredients, as well as for the remediation of polluted soil and water.

I am very thankful to my co-chair, Prof. Chung-Yuan Mou, who changed post as the deputy director of National Science Council right on the conference day. I am also grateful to the organization committee and the international advisory board for helping in the reviewing and selection of the presentations. My special thanks must go to Prof. Shang-Bin Liu, who organized and ran the conference with such attentiveness, that all participants enjoyed the event both scientifically and socially.

This issue of *Adsorption* collects the manuscripts from the contributions presented at PBAST-6 that have been accepted after peer-review. We have adhered to the quality standard of a regular issue in the selection of the manuscripts. Only less than half of the submissions were accepted. We believe that they will provide an overview for the topics in adsorption science and technology that will be of critical importance for the challenges the world is facing.

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Anthony S.T. Chiang (in the middle of the first row of the PBAST-6 photo, between Minoru Miyahara and Alois Jungbauer), born in 1952, married to Chiu-Mei, with three daughters, has been an associate professor (1983–1988), and a professor (1988–) of Chemical & Materials Engineering in National Central University, Taiwan. He holds a M.S. (1978) and a Ph.D. (1983) in Chemical Engineering from Worcester

Polytechnic Institute, USA. His research topics span from the fundamentals of adsorption to applications such as PSA and SMB processes. In more recent years, he has been involved in the preparation of adsorbents such as zeolites, carbons and high surface area nanoparticles of titania and zirconia. He has published more than 100 journal articles and holds 20 US and Taiwan patents