

## Preface

The International Symposium on Photochemistry and Photophysics of Coordination Compounds (ISPPCC) was first organized and held in 1974, as a result of rapid developments in the field of excited state chemistry and properties of transition metal complexes. Since then, the symposium has been held biennially. Following the tradition, the 15th ISPPCC, originally scheduled to be held on July 6–11, 2003, should have been held in Hong Kong in 2003. However, due to the outbreak of SARS, it was re-scheduled to July 4–9, 2004. This decision was a difficult one to arrive at during that time of the year. The organizers would like to express their apologies for the inconvenience that was caused to the participants due to the re-scheduling, and to express their most sincere thanks to the International Organizing Committee for their advice and support and to the participants for their patience, understanding, and support of the 15th ISPPCC.

Despite the re-scheduling of the symposium, the 15th ISPPCC was well attended with over 160 participants from all over the world. The scientific programme comprised 4 Plenary Lectures, 24 Invited Lectures, 19 Oral Presentations, and 90 Poster Presentations, spanning all areas of inorganic photochemistry and photophysics. The 15th ISPPCC also expanded its scope of interests to include related research in (1) Materials Science, such as in the development of molecular light-emitting materials for organic light-emitting diode (OLED) applications, luminescence signaling devices, optical- and photo-memory and imaging devices, photovoltaics, photochemical molecular devices (PMD) and machines, and optoelectronics; (2) Biomedical Science, such as in the development of luminescence chemo- and bio-sensors, luminescence labels and tags for biomolecules, artificial photosynthesis; and (3) Environmental Science, such as in the development of luminescence chemosensors, photochemical energy storage, etc. The 15th ISPPCC in Hong Kong provided a forum to arouse and widen the scope of interests of researchers in the field, particularly providing a good opportunity for delegates from Asia, in particular, Mainland China and the region, to attend the symposium.

The organizers would like to thank the participants for the excellent presentation of their outstanding work and for

the stimulating discussions and interactions that contributed to the success and friendly atmosphere of the symposium. Sponsorships from the Croucher Foundation to provide financial support for delegates from the Mainland, for young researchers in Asia and abroad, for Plenary Speakers as well as for Speakers and delegates from Asia and financial supports from the University of Hong Kong, Elsevier Science Publishers, Jobin Yvon Inc., Hong Kong International Chemical Sciences—A Chapter of the American Chemical Society, Kou Hing Hong Scientific Supplies Ltd., BMH Instruments Co. (HK) Ltd. and Che Scientific Co. (HK) Ltd. to support the social events are gratefully acknowledged. The organizers would also like to thank the Royal Society of Chemistry and the American Chemical Society for their courtesy support and assistance in the public announcement of the 15th ISPPCC and Prof. Barry Lever for his continuing support to the publication of ISPPCC contributions in this Special Issue of *Coordination Chemistry Reviews*.

The 16th ISPPCC is scheduled to be held in July 2005 in Asilomar in California, USA. The organizers would also like to express their sincere thanks to the organizers of the 16th ISPPCC for their understanding and for undertaking the difficult task of organizing the symposium within a short interval of time.

Last but not least, the organizers would like to dedicate this 15th ISPPCC to the memory of our very good friend, Dr. Vincent M. Miskowski, a genius spectroscopist who unfortunately passed away in Hong Kong in 2003.

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