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PREFACE

It is our pleasure to publish here a Special Issue of selected papers, which were presented at the *International Conference on Multiphase Flows '91—Tsukuba* (*ICMF'91*), sponsored jointly by the Japan Society of Multiphase Flow and the University of Tsukuba. The conference was held at the University of Tsukuba on 24–27 September 1991.

The conference aimed to cover many areas of multiphase flow technology, engineering and science, including gas–liquid, liquid–gas, gas–solid and gas–liquid–solid flows. The idea to consolidate recent advances in various aspects of multiphase flow research by common principles and laws originated from the same motivation as that to establish the Japan Society of Multiphase Flow. People having different backgrounds have often discussed for a long time the same properties of multiphase flows through different approaches and sometimes even in different technical terms. Many people may still regard multiphase flows as only a special case where complicating factors are added to single-phase flows. However, looking at flows in nature or industrial applications, we may realize that multiphase flows are rather popular and not exceptional cases. Indeed, a single-phase flow is less common. It turned out, as expected, that the Tsukuba conference proved a good opportunity to change our traditional views on multiphase flows.

This Special Issue contains selected papers associated with the conference. We are grateful to the members of the Organizing Committee, Conference Committee, Scientific Committee, National Committee and reviewers for their help in the evaluation and selection of the submitted papers. The sponsorship of companies, institutes, foundations and supporting organizations contributed to the success of the conference and is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, we appreciate the cooperation of Professor Gad Hetsroni, the journal Editor, and the staff of Pergamon Press Ltd, for their encouragement and assistance in producing this Special Issue.

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