

# EDITORIAL

## Polymers in Asia-Pacific

According to economists, the share of the World's GDP by the loosely defined Asia-Pacific region has more than doubled in the 30 years to 2006.<sup>1</sup> This, combined with the fact that the region is home to a large part of humanity, was bound to have effects on scientific output, and indeed today many of the nations in this region are scientific research powerhouses. Some countries, such as Japan, have been at the forefront of science and technology for more than a century, but the new story is the development of the research infrastructure of the entire region, not just impressive South Korea and Taiwan, or huge China, but also South-East Asian nations such as Thailand and Malaysia. Our definition of Asia-Pacific, for the purpose of this special issue, is somewhat *ad hoc*, as we do not include contributions from India, the Middle East, or Russia, which might be the subject of future special issues; on the other hand, we of course include Australia and New Zealand.

Polymers are no exception in the evolution of scientific geography: the last decades have witnessed an impressive development of the research infrastructure (and, more importantly, of the human capital that goes with it) in this region, and today several of the leading scientific journals in the field of polymer science carry a sizable share (or an outright majority) of contributions from this region. The *Journal of Applied Polymer Science* is no exception, and we are proud of showcasing selected articles from Asia-Pacific, which clearly run the gamut of topics in contemporary polymer research, from [flame retardant composites using renewable fibers](#),<sup>2</sup> to [adhesives](#),<sup>3</sup> [fuel cell membranes](#),<sup>4</sup> [elastomers](#),<sup>5</sup> [processing improvement aimed at waste reduction](#),<sup>6</sup> [electrically conducting polymers](#),<sup>7</sup> [nanotube composites](#),<sup>8</sup>

and many more. This would clearly not have been possible without the vision of governments as well as private companies, both local and foreign, which have seen this region as a prime hub for investment in research infrastructure and production facilities. This is doubly important for a journal like ours that spans the gap between academia and industry, as we can see firsthand the benefit of this convergence of interests.

At the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, we appreciate the trust that scientists from this very diverse region accord our journal in handling the peer review and publication of their research papers, and we are looking forward to many more years of publishing their best results.

**Stefano Tonzani**

*Editor-in-Chief*  
*Journal of Applied Polymer Science*

### References

1. Maddison, A. *World Econ* 2008, 9, 75.
2. Elshaarani, T.; Yaakob, Z.; Khairul Zaman, M. D.; Mohammad, M.; Abdullah, S. R. S. *J Appl Polym Sci*, DOI: 10.1002/app.36384.
3. Tsai, M.-H.; Huang, Y.-C.; Tseng, I.-H.; Yu, H.-P.; Lin, Y.-K. *J Appl Polym Sci*, DOI: 10.1002/app.36615.
4. Heo, Y.; Yun, S.; Im, H.; Kim, J. *J Appl Polym Sci*, DOI: 10.1002/app.36881.
5. Hatthapanit, K.; Sae-Oui, P.; Sombatsompop, N.; Sirisinha, C. *J Appl Polym Sci*, DOI: 10.1002/app.36969.
6. Daver, F.; Demirel, B.; Sutanto, J.; Pang, C. W. *J Appl Polym Sci*, DOI: 10.1002/app.36780.
7. Sato, M.; Inata, M.; Yamaguchi, I. *J Appl Polym Sci*, DOI: 10.1002/app.36956.
8. Wu, T.; Pan, Y.; Liu, E.; Li, L. *J Appl Polym Sci*, DOI: 10.1002/app.36832.