

## Preface

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The supply/demand fundamentals of lead are strong with a recent modest (and perhaps overdue) increase in price. This is due in large measure to the strength of demand coming from lead's most important market — the lead/acid battery industry. There are increasing signs that lead is taking its place alongside some of the more prestigious non-ferrous metals. Clearly, this elevated position will be achieved through continued growth in both the use and widening applications of lead/acid batteries.

The dynamic Asian battery industry chose dynamic Thailand as the venue for the Third Asian Battery Conference. It is entirely appropriate for a buoyant industry to hold a major conference in Thailand. This is the Asian country that has displayed such an impressive economic development that it has become the latest, and a most popular, 'Tiger of the Orient'.

The large attendance at the Bangkok gathering (339 delegates from 23 countries), the active assistance of 25 equipment and materials' suppliers, as well as the high calibre of the speakers, reaffirmed the importance of Asian Battery Conferences to all those connected with the lead/acid battery industry. As before, the Zinc and Lead Asian Service (ZALAS) — the Conference organizer and sponsor — is pleased to share the proceedings with the battery community at large.

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