

## *Preface*

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The International Conference on Calorimetry, Experimental Thermodynamics and Thermal Analysis, CETTA'97, was held in Zakopane, a widely-known tourist centre at the foothills of the Polish Tatra Mountains, from 8 to 13 September 1997. The name CETTA'97 was given to a block of three jointly organized scientific meetings: the 2nd Polish-French-Czech Conference on Experimental Thermodynamics and Calorimetry, the 7th Polish Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis, and the Polish-Hungarian Symposium on Thermal Analysis. The conference was organized by the Physical Chemistry Department of the University of Łódź in collaboration with the Institute of Physical Chemistry at the Polish Academy of Sciences, under the auspices of calorimetry and thermal analysis societies and chemical societies from Poland, France, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The joint programme of the conference included 4 plenary sessions, a symposium 'Weak intermolecular interactions', the Polish-Hungarian Symposium on Thermal Analysis, and oral and poster presentations in 5 sections: (1) Biothermodynamics, environment, health, (2) Inorganic materials and metallurgy, (3) Organic materials, (4) Solution thermodynamics, and (5) Apparatus and measuring techniques. The 5th Meeting of the French-Polish Club for Chemical Thermodynamics was also held at the conference site. The scope of the presentations ranged from experimental to theoretical aspects of calorimetry and thermal analysis.

Over 250 participants from 16 countries presented 28 lectures (plenary and invited), 77 oral communications and 149 posters. The abstracts of these contributions were collected in the Conference Abstract Book.

The CETTA'97 Conference was accompanied by an exhibition of commercially available instrumentation, produced by Mettler-Toledo, MOM, Netzsch-Gerätebau, Perkin-Elmer, TA Instruments and SETARAM.

As a Chairman of the Conference, I wish to thank the members of the Organizing Committee for their efforts and contribution before and during the Conference. I wish also to express my gratitude to the Scientific Committee for their significant contribution in the preparation of the scientific programme of the CETTA'97. It was a great honour and pleasure for me to work together with a large number of dedicated people.

This special issue is a selection of the contributions presented in Zakopane. Unfortunately, only 48 papers could be published here, due to the editorial limitations. Some other papers accepted for publication will be presented in subsequent volumes.

I would like to thank all the authors for providing their manuscripts. My thanks are also due to Dr. Alina Piekarska for helping me in the preparation of this special issue.

The manuscripts have been reviewed by the Referees listed below. Their careful and prompt consideration is gratefully acknowledged.

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