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Preface

This chapter of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry contains selected papers presented at the European Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis for Environment (ECCTAE 2005) organised by the Centre of Excellence TALES (Thermodynamic Laboratory for Environmental Purposes), Institute of Physical Chemistry of Polish Academy of Sciences and held under the auspices of Prof. Janusz Lipkowski, the Vice-President of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS). The Conference took place on September 6–11, 2005 in the Conference and Holiday Centre 'Antałówka' in Zakopane, Poland.

In the past, the first International Conference on the Calorimetry and Thermodynamics was organized by the Institute of Physical Chemistry of PAS in 1969 in Warsaw. This conference was dedicated to Prof. Wojciech Świętosławski, the late outstanding thermodynamic scientist who died on April 29, 1968. He was one of the most prominent Polish physicochemist and the first director general of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of PAS, which had been founded in 1965.

In effect of the successful performance of such conference, the Institute of Physical Chemistry organized later the four National Conferences on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis in Zakopane from 1973 to 1988. The Organizing Chairman was Prof. Wojciech Zielenkiewicz, the Corresponding Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, who also initiated to create the Polish Society of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (PTKAT) with the name of Prof. Wojciech Świętosławski. Later, from 1991 to 2003, the next five Conferences on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis of the PTKAT was also organized in Zakopane by Prof. L. Stoch of the University of Science and Technology (AGH) of Krakow, by Prof. H. Piekarski of the University of Łódź, Prof. A. Małecki of the University of Science and Technology (AGH), and Prof. A. Książczak of the Warsaw University of Technology. In these organizations, the Institute of Physical Chemistry of PAS also participated.

The aim of the Conference ECCTAE 2005 was to bring together all scientists interested in the calorimetry and thermal analysis applied for environmental purposes and came from the academy, universities, laboratories, industries, agencies, etc. Finally, 92 participants from eleven countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, France, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Poland) took part in the Conference. The scientific program of the ECCTAE with 16 plenary lectures, 14 lectures and 53 posters reflected the most recent developments in the field of science and supplied many new results on environment and biochemistry, organic and inorganic. Calorimetry and thermal analysis play the major role in investigations on new materials for environment and biochemistry. New experimental techniques like solution, surfactant, combustion and hazard calorimetry, hazard thermal analysis, etc. are of the utmost importance.

Finally, I would like to thank all the participants in the Conference and the authors for the careful preparation of their presentations and manuscripts in this special chapter of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry. I would also like to thank the best to all co-workers of the Organizing Committee.

Hopefully, all of the participants from several countries enjoyed the wonderful days of this Conference in the beautiful place of Zakopane.

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