

Preface

I am very pleased to introduce this special issue of the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry* based on the papers from the 5th International and 7th China-Japan Joint Symposium on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis and Exhibition (CATS 2008) during May 18–21, 2008, held at the Bayshore Hotel Dalian, Dalian, China. The Symposium follows the tradition of the previous series meetings held in Hangzhou, China (1986), Osaka, Japan (1990), Xi'an, China (1994), Tsukuba, Japan (1999), Lanzhou, China (2002), Fukuoka, Japan (2005). The CATS 2008 has attracted over 200 participants from 14 countries and about 250 papers were presented over four days. The papers and posters covered 10 topical areas of thermo-analytical methods and various testing materials science:

- A Solutions and Reaction
- B Inorganic Materials, Ceramics and Metals
- C Organic Materials and Polymers
- D Surface, Interfaces and Colloid
- E Biothermodynamics, including Pharmaceutical and Medical Applications
- F Heat capacity and Phase transitions
- G Environment and Energy
- H Thermodynamic Databases and Simulation
- I Instruments and Method
- J The others

These papers provide an interesting overview of research and developments in the field of thermal analysis and calorimetry conducted in China and many other countries and testify that CATS is increasingly attracting researchers from around the globe.

The success of the CATS 2008 is the product of the dedicated volunteers who serve the Society. The CATS 2008 executive committee and the session chairs did a great job in organizing a very high quality program and recruiting the excellent papers that are contained in this special edition. My special thanks to Professor Judit Simon (Editor-in-Chief) of JTAC for her collecting these excellent papers and kind support in bringing out this special issue. I also appreciate the supports from The Committee of Chemical Thermodynamics and Thermal Analysis, Chinese Chemical Society, The Japan Society of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis (JSCTA), Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics (DICP), National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and International Association of Chemical Thermodynamics (IACT). CATS 2008 is also very grateful to the vendors for their participation in exhibition, training seminars as well as vendor and technical presentations detailing developments in various instrumentations and applications. They are an integral part to the CATS 2008.

I also want to thank all the authors for their submission of such high standard papers as well as for their timely responses to the reviewer recommendations. I am very grateful to the referees for their time and effort in the review process as acknowledgements to their great works. All of the reviewers have been listed on the next page.

I hope that you all will enjoy reading the papers of this special issue and will remember this CATS2008 with good memories.

Prof. Dr. Li-Xian Sun

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