

Preface

This special issue of *The European Physical Journal D* contains papers which have been presented at the 12th International Symposium on Small Particles and Inorganic Clusters. *ISSPIC-12* was held from September 6th to 10th, 2004, in Nanjing, China. It was the first time that such important meeting was held in China since 1976.

About 350 participants from many different countries around the world attended. 41 invited and hot-topics were delivered at the Symposium and 250 posters were presented. The opening session of *ISSPIC-12* was dedicated to the memory of Professor Steve Riley, one of the pioneers in cluster field. In keeping with the tradition of the ISSPIC meetings the 12th Symposium was devoted to a broad overview of new results on clusters and their related fields both experimentally and theoretically. The meeting included: electronic and structural properties, chemical reactivity, nanocatalysis and photochemistry, magnetism and spintronics, optical properties, thermodynamics and phase transition, quantum dots, wires and nanotubes, aerosols and interstellar grains, clusters in bioscience and biomedicine, etc.

Many organizations and personals made contributions to the success of the Symposium, particularly with the help from members of ISSPIC International Advisory Committee.

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Chairman of ISSPIC-12
Guanghou Wang

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