



Preface

There had been hitherto two Sino–Japanese joint symposia; the first in Hangzhou, China in 1986 and the second in Osaka, Japan in 1990. The third symposium was held in the ancient Chinese capital, Xi'an from June 6 to 9, 1994, and it is named “The International and the III Sino–Japanese Symposium on Thermal Measurements”. The word “International” was newly added to the name on the initiative of Professor Yen, hoping for participation from other countries, especially from Asia, Oceania and the Pacific rim.

At this symposium 87 scientists were registered besides some inactive participants; 59 from People's Republic of China, 27 from Japan and 1 from Canada. Contributed papers are 90, and they were presented in oral and poster sessions with enthusiastic discussion. Among these papers 36 were selected and are published in this special issue.

This year is a middle year in the sequence of ICTAC Congresses. We chose this year for this reason. Thus, the future symposia will also be held every 4 years, beginning in 1999, in harmony with other regional symposia in these fields; it is also one of the complementary symposia to the ICTAC Congress. The European symposia are expected to be held in the same way.

The venue, Xi'an, was a starting point on the silk road to Europe more than a thousand years ago. Intercourse between the East and the West started here, and many things came to and from Europe; the road was also connected to Japan. We hope this Asia–Pan-Pacific symposia will similarly enhance intercourse with Europe and also with the American continent.

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