



Preface

There is an abundance of water in nature. Water molecules interact with various substances and the functionality of each material is manifested only when the material coexists with water molecules. Scientists have devoted considerable time to the investigation of interaction of water, using various techniques. This special issue is a collection of thermal studies on interaction of water with various substances from biomaterials to metals.

The 14th IUPAC Conference on Chemical Thermodynamics was held in Osaka (Japan), 15–30 August, 1996. Nearly 600 participants from 44 countries attended and 466 papers were presented. At the conference, six workshops were simultaneously held, one of them being on *Interaction with Water*. Speakers at the workshops submitted their papers.

This issue highlights a variety of substances, such as biopolymers, proteins, polysaccharides, inorganic materials and metals using various thermal techniques, like calorimetry, thermogravimetry, differential scanning calorimetry, etc. Although there is a wide variety in both, materials and techniques, all the papers in this issue focused on interaction with water.

An ancient Chinese philosopher, RaoTsu, had said 2400 years ago that *water excels in benefiting the myriad creatures without contending with them, it comes close to the way*. We hope that this issue is helpful for the readers who admire the nature of water.

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