

Foreword

This issue of the journal contains papers selected from contributions, presented during the Second Global Annual Conference on *Materials Science and Engineering* (CMSE2013), which was held in Xianning, Hubei, China, November 20–22, 2013.

This event was sponsored by Hubei University of Science and Technology, co-sponsored by Hubei University of Arts and Science and Ningbo University. The basic idea was to create a comprehensive global forum for experts and researchers, exchange ideas, and present multiscale approaches in all aspects of materials science and engineering, including strength of materials.

The program of the conference included keynote speeches, special sessions, oral and poster presentations. It attracted more than 200 researchers and scientists from Australia, China, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Slovakia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, USA, and other countries from every corner of the globe. Prof. Rugang Zhong, President of Hubei University of Science and Technology, in his opening speech, expressed warm welcome to the authors and participants. He also emphasized the importance of this conference in promoting the further development of materials science and engineering. Authors also showed their passion on this event, about 180 authors made the poster presentations, and about 20 ones made the oral presentations.

We were greatly satisfied to know that all the participants benefited a lot from three keynote reports: “Recent Developments in Materials Science” by Dr. R. S. Beniwal from CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources, India, “Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology: A Gradient Nanomechanics Perspective” by Dr. E. C. Aifantis from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, and “Improvement of Strength and Thermocyclic Creep Resistance of Metal Products with Ion-Plasma Nitride Coatings by Pulse Technique Implementation” by Dr. A. O. Khotsyanovskii from Pisarenko Institute of Problems of Strength of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine.

We also appreciate the involvement of organizers, sponsors, and reviewers, including most TPC members, in their careful review of the full papers. Additionally, special thanks are given to Prof. C. Valles from University of Manchester, Dr. W. Lin from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Prof. A. Q. Wang from University of Manitoba, Prof. C. Brosseau from Universite de Bretagne Occidentale, and other esteemed experts for their special contributions to this conference and their review, summarizing the papers from the special session, which helped us to select the most relevant strength-related ones for this issue of the journal.

Every co-operative effort of the above people has made this conference successful. We hope that further common activities will be fruitful and interesting to the readers.

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