

PREFACE

The present set of volumes constitutes the Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Processing and Manufacturing of Advanced Materials – THERMEC'2006 held from July 4-8, 2006 in Vancouver, Canada under the co-sponsorship of The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS) ,USA. The Conference is also under the international auspices of professional organizations from Japan, Korea, France, Germany, PR China, India, Brazil and Canada.

The conference is intended to bring together the researchers and engineers/technologists working in different aspects of processing, fabrication, structure/property evaluation and applications of both ferrous and non ferrous materials including biomaterials, ecomaterials and smart/intelligent materials. In addition to the contributed papers, the conference committee has invited papers by active researchers from various countries in relevant topic areas covered at THERMEC'2006. Internationally known experts from several countries are invited to deliver Plenary/Keynote lectures at THERMEC'2006.

Much of the credit of the success of the conference is due to topic coordinators who have devoted their expertise and experience in promoting and in general co-ordination of the activities for the organization and operation of the conference. The coordinators of various session topics have devoted a considerable time and energy in soliciting papers from relevant researchers for presentation at the conference. The Chairpersons of the different session played important role in conducting the proceedings of the session in a timely and efficient manner and the Committee expresses sincere appreciation for their involvement. The reviewers of the manuscripts, who by tradition would remain anonymous, have been very helpful in efficiently reviewing the manuscripts, providing valuable comments well within the time allotted to them. The Editors express their sincere and grateful thanks to all of these people.

The THERMEC'2006 International Committee is proud to dedicate this conference proceeding to the late Professor J. Keith Brimacombe (University of British Columbia, Canada). Professor Brimacombe was not only an outstanding materials researcher and visionary but was also a humble human being. He was an ardent and strong supporter of the THERMEC Conference series and was also involved in staging THERMEC'97 which was held the first time in Australia in July 1997.

Finally, our sincere thanks to Renée Franco: THERMEC Executive secretary who spent countless days in preparing the final program in time for printing the abstract book as well as the final program book.

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