

Preface

This special volume of Advanced Materials Research (AMR) contains 85 refereed papers selected from those which were presented at the 4th International Conference on Advanced Materials and Processing (ICAMP-4) held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, 10-13 December 2006. Except for some papers which have been withdrawn from the reviewing and selection process for various reasons, all other full papers submitted and presented to ICAMP-4 were subjected to a formal peer review process by independent reviewers. Selection of the papers was based on the recommendations of the reviewers and the discretion of the guest editors and, in most cases, the accepted papers were revised to improve their quality. The selected papers cover a wide range of topics on processing, microstructure and properties of a number of advanced engineering and functional materials including metallic materials, polymeric materials, composite materials with polymer, metal and ceramic matrices, and other functional materials. While all papers make original contributions to the field of materials science and engineering, quite a number of papers report and discuss findings of very novel studies. It is believed that the papers will be widely read and cited by the international materials research and development community.

The publication of this special volume would not have come to fruition without the successful organization of ICAMP-4 which has attracted more than 150 delegates from 23 countries including internationally prominent materials scientists and engineers who had been invited to present keynote speeches and invited talks. During the conference, more than 150 oral and post presentations were given. The organization of ICAMP-4 followed the tradition of the previous ICAMP conference series, which aims to provide an opportunity and conducive environment for international researchers and graduate students from a wide range of materials science and engineering areas and background, to discuss, to network and to establish new collaborative links. There is no doubt that this tradition will be followed by the organizing committee when organizing ICAMP-5. This will be led by Professors Jun Shen and Yuyong Chen at Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, China.

All the seven members of the organizing committee have been appointed as the guest editors of this special volume, with each guest editor taking responsibility for the review of a number of papers in or closely related to his or her specialty area. As chairs of the organizing committee, we would like to thank our colleagues in the organizing and editorial committee for the tireless effort in putting this special volume together and thank the reviewers for their valuable and timely input. We would also like to thank the sponsors: Titanox Development Ltd, the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Society of Materials New Zealand Incorporated (SMNZI), and the members of the advisory committee for their strong support to the organization of ICAMP-4. Special thanks are also extended to Aamir Mukhtar, Aaron Johnanson, Lynda Foster, Mary Dalbeth, Renat Radosinsky and Stephanie Chia for the administrative support.

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