

Preface

The first **I**nternational **C**onference on **T**hin **F**ilms and **P**orous **M**aterials (*ICTFPM'08*) was held in Algiers, Algeria, on 19-22 May 2008. The *ICTFPM'08* was organized by the Silicon Technology Development Unit, in close cooperation with the Algerian Ministry of higher Education and Scientific Research. The venue of this conference was ideally located in very nice town of “Zeralda” located at 25 Km from Algiers city.

This special series of *Materials Science Forum* contains a selection of the papers presented at the ICTFPM 2008 conference. The major goal of the conference was to give opportunity for professionals within academic research and companies to meet together and take part in recent scientific finding, current challenges and opportunities in the promising field of porous materials and thin films. We were delighted that 250 participants were present at the conference in “Zeralda”. They were grouped mainly from Africa (Maghrebian) countries and European Union countries, but also from United States of America and Asia (especially from Japan). The scientific programme of the ICTFPM 08 was organized by a local committee with the assistance of Dr R. Boukherroub from the IEMN – Lille, France

The conference program consisted of 16 invited talks, 40 others oral contributions and 130 poster presentations. The conference programme was divided in twelve (12) sessions; the topics are listed as follows:

1. *Advances in Deposition Techniques*
2. *Characterization of Thin Films*
3. *Functionalization and Surface Modification*
4. *Magnetic Thin Films and Multilayers*
5. *Nanotechnology and NanoStructured Materials*
6. *New approach in Thin Films*
7. *Organic Thin Films (polymers, biomolecules, alkyl...)*
8. *Porous Materials and Applications*
9. *Physics and Chemistry of Thin Films and Interfaces*
10. *Single and Multilayer-based devices (Sensors, Photovoltaic, Optoelectronic)*
11. *Technique Growth and Applications on Thin Films*
12. *Thin Films and photonics application*
13. *Thin Films Related Environment Devices*
14. *New Materials: Modelling and Simulation*

We have selected a representative part of the papers based on the presentations given at the ICTFPM 2008 conference for this special issue of *Material Science Forum*. As guest Editor I accepted opinions of the referees and selection took into account the scientific originality of the papers.