Preface

Franco-Chinese academic exchange in the field of chemistry has been active since the 1970s, and reached an unprecedented scale during the 1980s. In that period the Chinese government sent more than one hundred and fifty students each year to pursue their Ph.D. studies in France. The late Prof. Guy Ourisson, former President of the French Academy of Sciences, and the late Dr. Pierre Potier, a member of the French Academy of Sciences, pioneered the exchange in the field of organic chemistry. In 1986, a Chinese delegation headed by the late Dr. JiaXi Lu, former president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, paid a visit to the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the Institut de Chimie de Substances Naturelles (ICSN, hosted by the late Dr. Derek H. R. Barton, the Director and a Nobel Laureate for Chemistry). This visit was followed by another delegation from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) later the same year. The late Dr. You Wang and Dr. XiaoTian Liang contributed greatly to the above exchanges. Prof. WeiShan Zhou and Prof. XuanWen Li, among others, were also important participants.

In the early 21st century, to further develop this long-standing bilateral academic exchange, the Franco-Chinese Foundation for Advanced Sciences and Technologies was founded jointly by Dr. J. Caen and the late Professor G. Ourisson. In 2003, Dr. ShiGang Sun and Dr. PeiQiang Huang were invited on a lecture tour to the University of Strasbourg (University of Louis Pasteur), University of Paris-5 (University of Rene Descartes), University of Paris-6 (University of Pierre & Marie Curie), the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris, the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles de Paris, University of Montpellier and University of Poitiers. Following this visit, and sponsored by the Franco-Chinese Foundation for Advanced Sciences and Technologies, the first Sino-French Symposium for Advanced Chemistry and its Applications was held in Xiamen, China on October 25–28, 2004, during the “Year of France in China”. The Ministry of Culture (France) sent a congratulatory letter to the meeting. Professor J. M. Lehn, also a Nobel Laureate for Chemistry, was among those who

strongly supported the idea of such a meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by Professor ShiGang Sun and Dr. Bang Luu, and attended by 21 French chemists, including three members of the French Academy of Sciences (Dr. Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Prof. Christian Amatore and Prof. Michel Rohmer), and 18 Chinese chemists, including eight members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Profs. MaoChun Hong, GuoQiang Lin, ZhongQun Tian, LiJun Wan, ErKang Wang, Vivian W. W. Yam, LiHe Zhang, Xi Zhang and YuFen Zhao). Mr. C. G. D. Blaize, the Consul Général of the General Consulate in Guangzhou, M. P. Van Hoeke, the representative of CNRS in Beijing, and Mr. M. Farine, the Scientific Counselor at the General Consulate in Guangzhou, attended the opening ceremony. Discussions were focused on three scientific topics: supramolecular chemistry, chemical biology & biotechnology, and nanoscience & technology, and the meeting was hailed a great success.

In other important efforts, the First Chemical Workshop South China-Lyon was held in Lyon, France, from 8 to 13 October, 2006. A thematic issue of *Comptes Rendus Chimie* was published (the first issue in 2008), based on the communications presented at that workshop. The Second Chemical Workshop France (Lyon)-China, held from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, 2007 in Xiamen, was co-sponsored by the NSFC and the General Consulate in Guangzhou, French Embassy in China, and co-chaired by Professor ShiGang Sun and Dr. Yves Queneau. Twenty chemists from both sides participated in the workshop with the theme of “Chemistry in Environmental and Life Sciences”. Prof. Isabelle Morelon, Scientific Attaché at the French Embassy in Beijing, and Prof. Didier Marty-Dessus, from the French General Consulate in Guangzhou, attended the meeting.

Subsequently, Prof. Jean-Marie Basset, and Christian Amatore, members of the French Academy of Sciences, have been distinguished as Doctors *honoris causa* of the University of Xiamen.

With the aim of intensifying the relationships between Chinese and French chemists, we envisioned a thematic issue of *Science China Chemistry*. Thanks to the support from Prof. LeMin Li, the Editor-in-Chief of *Science China*

Chemistry, this idea has now become reality. We are very grateful to all the authors who contributed to this issue. We are also indebted to Dr. XiaoWen Zhu for her enthusiasm in the editing of this issue.

Finally, it must be mentioned that Sino-French bilateral symposia and workshops, in addition to those discussed above, have been held with many fruitful results coming out of the Sino-French co-operative research, many of which

have been published in various other journals such as *Nature Chem.* (Shaik S, Wu W, Hiberty PC, *et al.* 2010, 1: 443–449), *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* (e.g. Hiberty PC, Wu W, Shaik S, *et al.* 2006, 128: 2836; Amatore C, Tian ZQ, *et al.* 2010, 132: 9534), *Nanotechnology* (Amatore C, Tao NJ, Tian ZQ, *et al.* 2010, 21: 274012), *J. Org. Chem.* (e.g. Huang PQ, Queneau Y, *et al.* 2009, 74: 7457). The list can only continue to grow.

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Professor SUN ShiGang received his B.S. (1982) from Xiamen University, China, and Doctorat d'Etat (Docteur ès Sciences Physiques, 1986) from Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI), France. After one year post-doctoral research in the Laboratoire d'Electrochimie Interfaciale du CNRS, France, he returned to China by the end of 1987, and served as an associate professor and later full professor in 1991 at the Department of Chemistry of Xiamen University till now. His research interests include electrocatalysis, spectroelectrochemistry and chemical power sources. He is currently president-elect of Chinese Electrochemical Society, Fellow of International Society of Electrochemistry and Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry. He serves as editorial board member of *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, *Funct. Mater. Lett.*, *Int. J. Anal. Chem.*, *Appl. Chem.*, and associate editor for *J. Electrochem.*, *Acta Phys-Chim. Sin.*, and *Spectr. Anal. Spectr.*

Professor QUENEAU Yves is Research Director at CNRS in Lyon, France, and Honorary Professor at the University of Hull, United Kingdom. After his doctorate in Paris-Sud (Orsay, France) with Prof. A. Lubineau (1988) and post-doctoral studies in New York (USA) with Prof S. J. Danishefsky (1991), he moved to Lyon (1994) where he has developed his research with a particular interest for the use of carbohydrates as renewable raw materials. He has recently co-edited two volumes of *Topics in Current Chemistry* on this subject (Vol. 294 & 295), and published close to 100 papers and book chapters in his career. He serves as editorial board member of *J. Carbohydr. Chem.* He is presently deputy Head of the Institut de Chimie et Biochimie Moléculaires et Supramoléculaires (University of Lyon, INSA Lyon). He is pursuing several fruitful international collaborations, notably with the team of Prof. PeiQiang Huang at the University of Xiamen.

Professor HUANG PeiQiang received his B.S. (1982) from Xiamen University (China) and D.E.A. (1984) from Université de Montpellier II (France) under the direction of Prof. B. Castro (INSERM-CNRS). After accomplishing the research work in the Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles, CNRS under the supervision of Prof. H.-P. Husson, he received his Ph.D. from Université de Paris-Sud (Orsay, France) in 1987. He served as a post-doctoral fellow in the group of Prof. W.-S. Zhou of Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, CAS, in 1988-1990. He was appointed at Xiamen University, first as an associate professor (1990), then as a professor (1993). His research interests include total synthesis of natural products, asymmetric synthesis, synthetic methodology. Currently, he is a fellow of RSC (2005-), and serves as an editorial board member of *Sci. China Chem.*, *Curr. Org. Synth.*, and *Chinese J. Org. Chem.*