Introduction to the special section on the 12th APCChE

Zhen-Min CHENG* (✉)

State Key Laboratory of Chemical Reaction Engineering, East China University of Science and Technology, Shanghai 200237, China

© Higher Education Press and Springer-Verlag 2009

This special issue of *Frontiers of Chemical Engineering in China* is a selection of papers submitted to the theme called *New Frontiers in Chemical Engineering* in the 12th Asian Pacific Confederation of Chemical Engineers (APCChE) which was held on 4–6 August 2008, Dalian, China.

The Asian Pacific Confederation of Chemical Engineers was founded in 1975 to provide a platform of communication for various non-profit societies, associations and institutions working in the field of Chemical Engineering in the Asian Pacific region. The 12th APCChE was co-organized by East China University of Science and Technology and Dalian University of Technology, and six themes were under discussion in this symposium: 1. clean energy technology, 2. environment and green processing, 3. materials science and engineering, 4. biotechnology, 5. new frontiers in chemical engineering, 6. education for chemical engineers.

The purpose of the topic in *New Frontiers in Chemical Engineering* is to promote the communication among the investigators in community of Chemical Engineering and Process Research and Development to contribute their experiences and new understandings to the future of chemical engineering. The following scientific topics were involved: 1. advanced separation and purification technology, 2. molecular simulation in chemical engineering, 3. interfacial engineering, 4. multiphase reaction engineering, 5. process intensification and advanced unit operation, 6. product engineering. The participants were primary from Asian and Pacific region, which includes Taiwan and the mainland of China, Australia, Malaysia, South Africa, Japan, Iran, Belgium, India, Thailand, England, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and Singapore. The three-day conference has actually promoted the exchange of information and sharing of experience among the chemical engineering colleagues.

In connection with the conference, there are totally 90 papers being submitted to *Frontiers of Chemical Engineering in China* to be considered for publication, and about 150 experienced and qualified referees were invited for rigorous peer-reviewed review. At last, 24 papers were considered for revision and this issue contains 21 of them which have been finally accepted and received by 30 November, 2008.

At this moment, I would like to acknowledge gratefully the efforts of all authors and referees who have contributed to the emergence of this issue. I would also like to thank Dr. Fei Yuan, the Managing Editor of this journal, for her valuable advice and indispensable help, and also to the High Education Press in providing this opportunity for publication.

E-mail: zmcheng@ecust.edu.cn

*Prof. Dr. Zhen-Min CHENG is the guest editor of the special section on the 12th APCChE