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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Xiaohua Wang is a Professor at the College of Engineering, Nanjing Agriculture University. His fields of interest include energy supply and consumption, exploitation of renewable energy in rural areas of developing country. He has had more than 30 international academic papers on energy and environment published in first class refereed international English journals. As a technical consultant, he has participated in the Integrated Rural Energies Development Program in Seventh, Eighth and Ninth FYP (Five Year Plans). *Energy – the International Journal* and *Energy Policy* invited him to be a referee to evaluate manuscripts for the journal.

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I am pleased to bring you this Special Issue of the *International Journal of Global Energy Issues* on bioenergy resource, processes and utilisation in developing countries. I am very happy to accept the invitation of Editor-in-Chief Dr. Mohammed A. Dorgham in October 2005 and become Guest Editor for this Special Issue. After many months of efforts by individual authors, reviewers, the journal's editorial team and staff, we now have this issue. I wish to thank Professor Zhang Quanguo for his help.

Energy and environmental problems with economic development in developing countries is becoming a key issue, as the complexity of technological and human systems is steadily increasing. Energy is the physical foundation and the driving force of agricultural modernisation and sustainable rural economic and social development. Renewable energy development is related to the upgrading of people's living standards, the improvement of ecological environment and the sustainable development of rural economy. Developing countries are abundant in biomass energy resources, e.g., it has a large quantity of agricultural residues and forest residues. As renewable energy, biomass energy will play a very important role in the future energy structure and in the meantime can effectively reduce the environmental pollution caused by the usage of the fossil fuels. Now, more and more countries pay great attention to the development and utilisation of biomass energy and biomass fuels. Biomass energy will actively cultivate new points of economic growth for both developing and developed countries. Furthermore, biomass energy has no contribution to the global warming during its energy conversion.

A wide-ranging series of papers has been selected to reflect the issues, challenges and interests and policy makers in this area. Topics covered in this special issue include economic evaluation and environmental benefits of biofuel, production of bio-oil from biomass fast pyrolysis, hydrogen production from swine manure wastewater and potential of energy production by Chinese farmers to fuel rural development.

I dare hope that this Special Issue of the journal will improve readers' understanding of the challenges faced by bioenergy resource, processes and utilisation in developing countries and that it will generate increased interest and readership of the *International Journal of Global Energy Issues*.