
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Ronghou Liu, PhD, Professor and PhD Supervisor in the field of Renewable Energy at School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, PR China. He is the Director of Biomass Energy Engineering Research Centre, School of Agriculture and Biology, Shanghai JiaoTong University, PR China. His main research field is 'Biomass Energy Engineering'. At present, he is an Executive member of Chinese Biomass Development Centre; He studied at Tsukuba International Centre of JICA, Japan in 1995. He did research at Bio-energy Research group of Aston University, UK within 2000–2001. He worked at Hiroshima University Japan as an Invited Professor for three months in 2002. He has had a lot of experience in conducting International and National research projects.

Biomass is recognised as the third largest primary energy resource in the world. In many developing countries, fraction of the biomass energy consumed is ranged from 40% to 50% since these countries have large agriculture and forest area. Therefore, biomass energy is destined to play an important role in the future energy systems of the world.

Conversion of biomass to energy is undertaken using three main process technologies: direct combustion, thermo-chemical and bio-chemical/biological. Mechanical extraction (with esterification) is the fourth technology for producing energy from biomass, e.g., Rapeseed Methyl Ester (RME) bio-diesel. In order to promote the research and development of biomass energy in developing countries, the *International Journal of Global Energy Issues* (IJGEI) has published a special issue on: 'Biomass Energy in Developing Countries'. The main objective of this special issue is to address issues related to the theory and experimental research and case studies in the field of biomass energy. Totally, nine papers have been finally selected after a peer review process. The authors are from PR China, Iran, Turkey, India and Japan. The subjects have covered with a wide area of biomass energy, including pyrolysis, gasification, biogas, resources, biodiesel, techno-economic assessment of biomass energy technology, and case study of biomass energy in developing countries.

As a Guest Editor, I sincerely hope that the special issue will play an active role for the development of biomass energy in developing countries.