
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Ronghou Liu is a Professor, PhD and PhD Supervisor in the field of Renewable Energy at the School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, PR China. He is Director of Biomass Energy Engineering Research Centre, School of Agriculture and Biology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200240, PR China. His main research interests include Biomass Energy Engineering; Energy/Ecological Environment Integrated System. At present, he is a member of Discipline Evaluation Group of State Department Degree Committee of China. His publications include, '*New Energy Engineering*' (book), Chinese Agricultural Publishing House (2006); '*The Processes and Examples of Fuel Ethanol*' (book), Chemical Industry Press (2008).

Biomass is a renewable, potentially sustainable and relatively environmentally benign source of energy. If grown and utilised on a sustainable basis, biomass is carbon dioxide neutral. Therefore, biomass energy is one of the important energy sources in the future energy systems of the world.

Biomass can be converted into three main products: two related to energy – power/heat generation and transportation fuels – and one as a chemical feedstock. The International Journal of Global Energy Issues (IJGEI) has published a special issue on "Biomass Energy Conversion Technologies". The main objective of this special issue is to address the issues related to theory and experimental research in the field of biomass energy conversion technologies, including conversion technologies, techno-economic assessment and case studies of biomass energy in the world. The subjects have covered with a wide area of biomass energy, including bioethanol, biogas, biodiesel and techno-economic assessment of biomass energy technology.

As a guest editor, I sincerely hope that the special issue will play an active role for the development of biomass energy in the world.