
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Han Huang is a reader in Mechanical Engineering and the Director of Nanomechanical Testing Laboratory at the University of Queensland. His research interests include testing, modelling and characterisation of emerging materials, MEMS-based sensor technologies, nanomanufacturing and precision machining. He has editorial roles in several international journals. He has published more than 80 refereed international journal papers and two book chapters, and held three patents. He received the prestigious Singapore National Technology Award and ARC Australian Research Fellowship.

Jun Ding is currently an Associate Professor at Department of Materials Science and Engineering, National University of Singapore. His major research activities include nanostructures, nanomagnetics and spintronics. He has published more than 200 papers in refereed international journals and four patents.

Thin films, coatings and advanced functional materials that possess different near-surface properties from their bulk properties with specific performance characteristics are building blocks of numerous advanced technologies. The application of such materials has been significantly increased with the rapid development of nanotechnology and bioengineering during the past several decades. Characterisation of thin films, coatings and modified surfaces has thus become extremely important and challenging in the field of surface science and engineering. This special issue focused on the fabrication and property testing of thin films, coatings and nano-surfaces, as well as their applications in a wide range of engineering fields. It aimed at providing a forum for the researchers working on surface science and engineering to share stimulating results and to review recent advances in the development and characterisation of thin films, coating materials and modified surfaces.

The call for papers in this special issue received a very encouraging response all over the world. Fifteen manuscripts were received. After peer-reviewed, ten technical papers were selected for the inclusion in the issue. The contributions include the original scientific papers concerning with the fabrication and property testing of thin films, coatings and nano-surfaces, and the research reviews of current advances in these areas. We hope that this issue can provide useful references for the researchers in surface science and engineering and stimulate more widespread interest in applications of advanced film and coating materials.

The publication of the research outcomes in this special issue could not be completed without the strong support from all the contributors and the reviewers. Their timely responses to the issue requirements and deadlines are greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the Editors in IJSurfSE, Professors J. Paulo Davim and L.C. Zhang, for their valuable advices and consistent support in the preparation of this issue.