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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Tianmin Shao received his PhD Degree from Petroleum and Gas Institute in Romania in 1992. He is a Professor of the State Key Laboratory of Tribology at Tsinghua University. His research interests include surface coating, laser surface modification, friction and wear of materials. He has published over 90 papers. He is a corresponding member of the International Tribology Council (ITC).

Yongzhen Zhang received his PhD Degree from Xian Jiaotong University in 2002. He is a Professor of Henan University of Science and Technology. His researches cover the wear of materials, tribological behaviours of materials. He has published over 100 papers and three books related to tribological characteristics of materials.

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This special issue of the *International Journal of Surface Science and Engineering* contains selected papers related to tribology with special emphasis on surface engineering. Most of the papers were presented in the 5th China International Symposium on Tribology (CIST2008) and 1st International Tribology Symposium of IFToMM (ITS – IFToMM 2008), which was held in Beijing China, on September 24–28, 2008. The guest editors wish to express their thanks to Professor J. Paulo Davim, Professor Liangchi Zhang, Dr. Ximei Wang and all the people who contributed to this special issue.