
Preface

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Biographical notes: Azlina Bt Harun @ Kamaruddin received her PhD in Biotechnology (1995) at Imperial College, University of London. She started her career as a Lecturer in the School of Chemical Engineering, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in 1995 and was promoted to Professor in 2008. After 14 years of teaching in USM, she was seconded to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia. She is currently the Dean of the School of Chemical Engineering. She works in the areas of enzyme and microbial technologies as well as environmental science. Much of her work focuses on the use of enzymes and microorganisms as tools in converting numerous raw materials to valuable chemicals and fuels.

Lee Keat Teong obtained his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in 2004. He is currently Associate Professor and Deputy Dean (research and postgraduate studies) at the School of Chemical Engineering, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Up to date, he has published more than 100 research articles in various international peer-reviewed journals. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief for *Journal of Advanced Chemical Engineering*, Associate Editor for *American Journal of Biomass and Bioenergy* and editorial board member for *ISRN Renewable Energy*. Currently, he is working on the production of biofuels (biodiesel and bioethanol) from biomass (mainly oil palm biomass) using various technologies. Apart from that, he also has special interest on the social and sustainability aspects of biofuels.

Khim Hoong Chu received his Bachelor's degree at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and his PhD from the National University of Singapore. He has held faculty positions at the University of Canterbury and at Swinburne University of Technology in Australia as well as the University of Malaya in Malaysia. He has industrial experience with Honeywell where he directed wastewater and waste gas treatment projects.

Yung-Tse Hung received his PhD in Environmental Engineering from University of Texas at Austin. His BSCE and MSCE are from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. He has been a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, since 1981. He has taught at 16 universities in eight countries. His research interests are biological waste treatment, industrial waste and hazardous waste treatment. He is Editor of *International Journal of Environment and Waste Management (IJEWM)*, Editor of *International Journal of Environmental Engineering (IJEE)*, and Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Environmental Engineering Science (IJEES)*.

The development of sustainable green technologies is an ideal approach to solving the Earth's pressing environmental problems and preserving its natural resources. The present expectation is that this field will bring innovation and changes in daily life not only to the selected few but to the bottom billions worldwide as well. The majority of the 5 billion people in the developing/developed world are getting more benefits from technological advancement while the other communities (bottom billions) are yet to reap similar benefits. Therefore, the development of green technologies should consider the needs and requirements of the bottom billions as well. This topical issue forms the primary focus of this special issue, which provides an important avenue for active knowledge dissemination. Examining the current practices and determining the policies of future endeavours in the sphere of green technologies occupy a prominent place in this special issue.

Special issue: this special issue reports new research findings and novel solutions in sustainable technologies for the benefits of bottom billions inhabitants on the earth. It contains a selection of peer-reviewed papers presented at the 2010 International Conference on Environment held in Penang, Malaysia from 13 to 15 December, 2010.