
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Guosheng Shao is the Director for the Institute of Renewable Energy and Environmental Technologies and Leader for Engineering, Sports and Sciences at the University of Bolton. He obtained his PhD in Materials Science from the University of Surrey in 1995 and thereupon worked as a Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow, until transferring to the Brunel University as a Reader in Materials in 2005. He joined the University of Bolton as a Professor of Materials Modelling and Simulation in 2007. His current interest covers 'designer' materials for renewable energy and environmental applications.

Junhua Hu is an Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the Zhengzhou University, China. He obtained his PhD in Materials from the Shizuoka University (Japan) in 2009. His current research covers semiconducting silicides and related materials for renewable energy systems and devices.

Xiaohong Xia is an Associate Professor at the Hubei University, China. She received her PhD from the Huazhong Normal University in 2007, when she joined the Hubei University as a Lecturer. She worked at the University of Bolton as a Visiting Scientist and then as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow

in 2010–2011. Her current research interest is design and fabrication of nano-semiconducting materials for renewable energy systems and environmental catalysis.

We, the organising committee, are privileged to help for the publication of the proceedings of the UK-China Symposium of New Energy Materials and Nanotechnology for scientists, engineers and research students with interests in the science and technology of this field. The symposium was proposed and co-organised by the Zhengzhou University and the Chinese Society of Chemical Science and Technology in the UK (CSCST-UK), and was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). The symposium was successfully held at the Zhengzhou University in China from July 24th to July 26th, 2012. Thirty-eight papers from over 100 papers presented at the symposium were selected via a rigorous review process, 22 of which appear in this first special issue.

The organising committee invited 38 keynote speakers from the UK, Germany, Hong Kong, and China, and 360 researchers attended the symposium with over 100 posters being presented. As an additional highlight, an international collaboration platform, the UK-China Centre for Multifunctional Nanomaterials, was launched on the symposium.

The scope of this symposium covered new energy materials and devices, on the basis of nano-materials and nanotechnology, aiming to meet the accelerating demand of worldwide energy consumption. The main topics covered by the symposium were:

- 1 Nano materials: theoretical calculation, fabrication and properties.
- 2 Nano materials for sustainable energy: solar, photoelectric device and battery.
- 3 Nano photo-catalysts and environmental applications.
- 4 Low-carbon and environmentally friendly technology in the conventional material field.

Finally, on behalf of the organising committee, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all the participants, with special appreciation to those who have contributed to the compilation of the high quality papers for this special issue, including journal editors, managers, authors, and reviewers.