
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Wojciech Stanek is a full time Professor at the Faculty of Energy and Environmental Engineering, Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, Poland. His education and professional career is connected with the Silesian University of Technology – one of the best research centres in Poland in the field of energy systems including technical, thermodynamic, economic and ecological optimisation of thermal systems. His main scientific and research interests are related to exergy analysis, thermodynamic assessment of ecological effects using thermo-ecological cost, mathematical modelling and optimisation and energy system diagnosis.

Paweł Gładysz is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Energy and Fuels, AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, Poland. His field of research includes thermal engineering, modelling and optimisation of thermal processes (mainly clean coal technologies and combined heat-and-power cycles), life cycle assessment, system input-output analysis, both thermo-ecological and thermo-economic analysis, as well as energy policy.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Exergy* presents selected scientific output of 6th International Conference on Contemporary Problems of Thermal Engineering CPOTE 2020, which was held online, September 21–24, 2020.

CPOTE 2020 was the 6th edition of International Conference on Contemporary Problems of Thermal Engineering and was organised by Institute of Thermal Technology, Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland in cooperation with AGH University of Science and Technology. Since 1998 CPOTE conference brings together scientists involved in energy and exergy analysis. The 1st edition was dedicated to the 50th jubilee of Professor Jan Szargut scientific activity. The 2nd one (in 2004) celebrated centenary traditions of the Institute of Thermal Technology reaching back to its origins in Technical University of Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). The 3rd edition (in 2012) was devoted to the jubilee of Professor Andrzej Ziębik's 50 years academic activity. The 4th CPOTE conference (in 2016) was given a special topic 'Sustainable

energy systems for our common future'. The 5th edition (in 2018) special topic was 'Energy systems in the near future: energy, exergy, ecology and economics'. This edition was also dedicated to the memory of Professor Jan Szargut. Finally, CPOTE 2020 was focused on the energy system beyond 2020 – challenges and opportunities.

Selected papers presented during CPOTE 2020 conference were invited to the *International Journal of Exergy* special issue dedicated to the conference. Finally, after regular review process, six papers have been accepted for publication. We hope the readers will find this special issue a valuable read.