Guest Editorial

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The environment has taken a heavy load and deteriorated as a result of development in industries and agriculture that exploits our natural resources. Although environmental protection and conservation have been declared as part of national policy in developing countries, research and development on pollution management has not been focused and integrated particularly in the area of hazardous substances including materials and waste management.

To address and resolve the issues above, the Asian Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) was organized. In 2003, the APRC was held first at Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science, Taiwan with delegates from Thailand, Philippines, Japan and Korea. Following this kickoff conference, the subsequent APRC was organized at in different countries: in 2006, it was held at the University of the Philippines, Diliman; in 2007, in Khon Kaen University, Thailand. Because the University of the Philippines celebrated its 100-year foundation in 2008, the 6th APRC became a centennial conference held at the main campus in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. Afterwards, the APRC was hosted by Hanoi University of Technology, Vietnam in 2009, and by Ubon Ratchathani University, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand in 2010.

This APRC was organized so that professional as well as academic experiences can be shared by all international participants. Last year, the conference was given another name. Thus, APRC became the International Conference on Sustainable Environmental Technologies (ICSET) and was upgraded into international level. Seoul National University, Korea hosted the ICSET 2011 and King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand hosted the ICSET 2012. It is hoped that the updated information presented in this conference can be utilized not just regionally but also internationally. The articles in this special issue were selected from the 82 papers presented at ICSET 2012.

Finally, on behalf of the ICSET committee, I would like to express our gratitude to the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. H. Paul Wang, for his invaluable support. In addition, I would like to thank the authors and reviewers for their effort and contribution in making possible the publication of this special issue.

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