

Guest Editor's Remarks on the Special topics from ISNTPT-6

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The rapid growth of world population, energy consumption and industrial development during the last century has caused severe adverse impacts including the degradation of environmental quality, the shortage of water and energy supply and global climate changes. In the meantime, development of non-thermal plasma technology as an innovative and effective alternative technology for pollution control, starting from the generation of ozone as disinfectant and oxidizer, is getting mature thanks to the efforts and continuing contributions of many researchers in this field. For future development, how to make non-thermal plasma technology more energy-efficient and environment-friendly in alleviating global warming concerns, in solving environmental pollution problems and even in developing clean energy in a sustainable manner remains a great challenge for the scientists dedicated to the non-thermal plasma research.

The sixth International Symposium on Non-thermal Plasma Technology for Pollution Control and Sustainable Energy Development (ISNTPT-6) was held in Wanli, Taipei, Taiwan, during May 12-16, 2008. The series of ISNTPT started in Cambridge, UK in 1992 and followed by 2nd in Salvador, Brazil (1997), 3rd in Cheju Island, Korea (2001), 4th in Panama City, USA (2004) and 5th in Oleron Island, France (2006). As the application of non-thermal plasma technology for solving the environmental pollution and energy-related problems becomes more widespread and receives more attentions, the interval of holding this important series symposium becomes shorter.

In total, 95 participants coming from 15 countries attended the symposium and 65 scientific papers were presented in either oral or poster sessions, covering a vast range of topics including gaseous pollutant control, plasma modeling & chemical synthesis, plasma and catalysis, water treatment, plasma-assisted combustion, fuel reforming & energy-related applications, fundamentals and diagnosis, sterilization and inactivation of microorganism etc. As can be seen from the topics of the papers being presented, the application of non-thermal plasma technology has been extended much wider. Through the thorough evaluation and reviewing process, five articles are finally recommended for the publication in the special issue of the International Journal of Plasma Environmental Science & Technology. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the editor, authors and reviewers for their great contribution.