

Guest Editorial

Special Issue—ACUN-5 International Composites Conference, July 11–14, 2006, Sydney, Australia

The concept of *ACUN Composites Conference* was developed in 1998 in Las Vegas, NV, U.S.A. by Dr. Sri Bandyopadhyay (Australia), Prof. Sami Rizkalla (then Canada), Dr. Piyush Dutta (U.S.A.), and Prof. Debes Bhattacharyya (NZ) for encouraging active interchange of knowledge in all aspects and areas of composite materials and applications among researchers, academics, engineering, and industry professionals around the world. ACUN-1 through ACUN-4, were held in the years 1999–2002 at UNSW, Sydney, Australia. Through energetic and active participation by delegates from around the world, the ACUN conference series has now reached truly top international status, and ACUN-5, held at UNSW during July 11–14, 2006, was no exception with over 100 delegates from more than 20 countries. Over 75% of delegates coming to the ACUN-3, ACUN-4, and ACUN-5 events ranked this conference series to be within the top 10 conferences in the world they have attended in their entire career. The co-sponsors for ACUN-5 were UNSW School of Materials Science and Engineering, Australian Research Network for Advanced Materials, Australian Research Council Nanotechnology Network, and Office of Naval Research Global.

ACUN-5 provided an international forum for presentation and discussion of the latest research and developments of composite materials, from fabrication, processing, manufacturing, structure-property characterization, theoretical analysis, modeling and simulation, and materials design, to suit a variety of applications such as aerospace, automotive, infrastructure, packaging, ship building, and recreational products. It also encouraged the delegates to share ideas and emerging technologies, and to foster research and development collaborations amongst academia, research institutions, and relevant industries.

This special issue consists of a selection of papers that were found to be consistent with the aims and scope of the journal of *Materials and Manufacturing Processes*. All the papers published here have been subjected to rigorous peer review in order to maintain the high standard of the journal in terms of content and presentation. A volume of proceedings (ISBN: 0 7334 2363 9) of all papers presented at the ACUN-5 conference was distributed to the delegates and limited supply of ACUN-5 proceedings and CD-Rom are available. ACUN-5 also presented the Best Research Paper Awards and Best Students Presentation Awards to honor a band of leading international composite researchers, namely, Yiu-Wing Mai, Klaus Friedrich, Debes Bhattacharyya, Sami H. Rizkalla, Mirko Ros, Rudolf Seracino, K. G. Satyanarayana, Alan Baker, Jonathan Hodgkin, and Sri Bandyopadhyay.

We would like to thank the members of the organizing committee, co-sponsors, supporting organizations for their efforts in making the ACUN-5 a great success. We also thank all authors who contributed papers to the ACUN-5 and who submitted their papers for this Special Issue. Sincere thanks go to all the reviewers for their valuable comments, criticism, and suggestions. We particularly thank Dr. T. S. Sudarshan who made this Special Issue possible. We also thank the publisher and editorial board of this journal for accepting and helping the publication of this Special Issue.

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