

## Preface

Hong Kong has a long tradition of coordination chemistry research, even at times when research funding was very much under-provided or essentially non-existent. Early leaders in the field include Professor S.C. Chan and Professor C.K. Poon; both of whom were able to demonstrate elegant coordination chemistry research and to work at its frontiers in those days with the use of simple apparatus and a UV–vis spectrophotometer. It was only in 1991 that the Research Grants Council was established to provide research funding to cater for the needs of researchers through a Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) Scheme. It was also in the early to mid-1990s that modernization of research equipment, facilities and infrastructure at the universities began. Coordination chemistry is now one of the most active areas of research in Hong Kong and has gained worldwide recognition. Hong Kong has also demonstrated its success in the production of high-quality locally trained PhD graduates in coordination chemistry; a number of whom have led a successful academic career in coordination chemistry research. Despite having a total area of only 1104 km<sup>2</sup>, Hong Kong as a metropolitan city ideally positioned at the centre of rapidly developing East Asia and situated at the south-eastern tip of China, has grown to become a centre of coordination chemistry research that has become visible on the map.

The year of 2007 is a memorable year to celebrate the 10th anniversary for the return of Hong Kong to Mainland China on 1 July 1997 to become a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China. This special issue of Coordination Chemistry Reviews serves to cover the works and efforts of

the majority of Hong Kong coordination chemists and to provide readers with a flavor and general perception of the development and scope of activities of coordination chemistry research in Hong Kong.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors to this issue for their efforts, and to pay tribute to all the coordination chemists, past and present, who have contributed to the success and development of coordination chemistry research and education in Hong Kong. Last but not least, I would like to thank Professor A.B.P. Lever for his kind suggestion and subsequent organization of this special issue. The idea of having a special Hong Kong issue was initiated by Professor Lever at a Symposium organized by Professor C.M. Che in November 2005 in honor of Professor H.B. Gray and Professor C.K. Poon on the occasion of their respective 70th and 65th birthdays. This special issue is dedicated to both Professor H.B. Gray and Professor C.K. Poon, who have contributed significantly to the development of coordination chemistry research and education in Hong Kong.

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15 June 2007

Available online 22 June 2007