

The inaugural Hangzhou International Polymer Forum (HIPF-07) was successfully held on May 14–17, 2007. The Forum was hosted by Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, P. R. China and mainly sponsored by the National Science Foundation of China, Chinese Chemical Society Polymer Division, Y. C. Tang Foundation, BASF, and Malvern Instruments China. The focus of the Forum was on advanced materials and reaction engineering. The topics included controlled/living radical polymerization, novel organometallic catalysts and olefin polymerization, functional and engineering materials, macromolecular reaction engineering, and advanced polymer processing. There were a total of 122 participants from 13 countries and districts that included the USA, Canada, England, Germany, France, Japan, Singapore, India, and China, with 44 overseas delegates. There were 48 oral presentations, which included 6 plenary lectures, and 78 posters. Five posters received the BASF Excellent Poster Presentation Prizes.

With the rapid economic and social development in China, the petrochemical-based polymer industries are also growing at an unprecedented pace. The major international firms in the polymer areas are very active in establishing their manufacturing facilities and R&D centers in the area. Hangzhou, located in the Yangtze Delta region, has the most rapidly developing economy in China. Founded 2,200 years ago, the City is very rich in culture as one of the seven ancient Chinese capitals. It is also well known for its beautiful natural scenery with the most famous West Lake.

Zhejiang University, as one of the top ranked higher learning and research institutes in China, has 750 students currently studying polymers and thousands go abroad for graduate studies every year. The Forum provided an excellent platform for the participants to exchange current views and research results, and to discuss opportunities for advancing scientific collaboration and promoting innovation through research. Many participants warmly congratulated on the success of the Forum and eagerly suggested that the Forum be organized on a regular basis. We intend to have this Forum in the near future through coordination with the well-established European and North American counterparts.

This proceeding contains 23 papers that were selected from the 126 contributions through a rigorous review process and with approval for publication by the Editors of the volume. We are indebted to the outstanding referees for their efficient work. We sincerely thank Zhejiang University for creating such a wonderful environment for the Forum. There are many colleagues involved in organizing the Forum. In particular, Professor Yingwu Luo, Zhejiang University, assisted in developing the technical program as the Forum's Secretary General. Mr. Zhiyang Bu, Zhejiang University, assisted in preparing this proceedings and in designing the cover page. We acknowledge their strong support and contribution.

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