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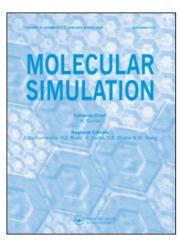
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GUEST EDITORIAL

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GUEST EDITORIAL

KWONG-YU CHAN

University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

The Yangtze River was closed in November 2002 to start the final stage of the Three Gorges Project. A few weeks earlier, 130 participants of the "Yangtze Conference of Fluids and Interfaces" cruised through the Three Gorges and caught the last glimpses of the natural scenery before the scheduled rise of the water level to 135 m in 2003. After one and a half days of sessions in Nanjing, the conference participants flew together to Wuhan on October 14 and took a 4-h bus to board Splendid China. They then sailed upstream through the gorges and arrived at Chongqing on October 18. To many of the scientists from 18 countries, this was the most eventful, historical and adventurous international meeting they had experienced. Listening to the talks by the cruising window, I never found science so poetic. Colleagues showed devotion to science, persisting to the end of midnight sessions. Inspiration arose; new bonds formed; and good memories remained.

In three parts, this Special Issue of *Molecular Simulation* documents much of the science discussed during the Yangtze Conference. The 47 refereed papers were grouped according to the sessions in which they were presented at the conference. Part One is composed of the Taylor and Francis Lecture by Stuart Rice and the sessions on "Phase Transitions", "Complex Fluids" and "Nanostructures and Nanomaterials". Part Two collects contributions from the sessions on "Soft Matter" and "Fluid–Fluid Interfaces". Part Three contains papers on "Solid Interfaces", "Ion Channels" and "Non-equilibrium, Kinetics, and Transport Phenomena". Papers from the general

poster session were distributed into the most appropriate groupings. In line with the scope of the journal, experimental papers were solicited in addition to theoretical and simulation papers. Most of the papers were collected prior to the conference and about one fifth of the refereeing was completed during the conference. I would like to thank all the reviewers, especially those not attending the conference, for their professional input.

Conceived by Douglas Henderson, the conference was organized by Doug, Greg Voth, Xiao-hau Lu and Kwong-Yu Chan. Financial support was received from a number of sources. The list includes the Henry Eyring Center of Theoretical Chemistry of University of Utah, China National Natural Science Foundation, US National Science Foundation, US Office of Naval Research, David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Taylor and Francis, Jiangsu Association for Science and Technology, and Nanjing Ideas Software Co. Details of the conference including photographs, of which Fig. 1 is an example, and the full program are available from the website http://chem.hku.hk/~yangtze.

The conference was organized to promote international exchanges in science and otherwise. In response to the call for proceeding papers, there were enthusiastic contributions from the host nation, and from other internationally renowned scholars. The three parts of this special issue, hopefully as gorgeous as the Three Gorges, will reinforce the objectives of the conference and those of the journal (Fig. 1).





FIGURE 1

- 1. B. Garrett
- 2. H. Toxvaerd
- 3. S. Garrett
- 4. C.C. Chen
- 5. C. Williams
- 6. J. Weeks
- 7. S. Toxvaerd
- 8. B. Burgess
- 9. K.Y. Chan
- 10. J. Percus
- 11. G. Stell
- 12. E. Magnin
- 13. H.C. Chang
- 14. M.N. Dias Soeiro Cordeiro
- 15. M. Valisko
- 16. H.Z. Liu
- 17. H.M. Hu
- 18. L. de La Torre Munoz
- 19. J. Lewis

- 20. D. Boda
- 21. J.P. Badiali
- 22. C. Liu
- 23. X. Feng
- 24. G. Hu
- 25. L. Kadanoff
- 26. S. Yip
- 27. H.F. Wang
- 28. R. Kadanoff
- 29. H. Ding
- 30. Ms. Jin
- 31. W. Dong
- 32. B. Eisenberg
- 33. A. Eisenberg
- 34. A. Trokhymchuk
- 35. B. Ornella
- 36. K. Kurihara
- 37. L. Reatto
- 38. D. Gillespie

- 39. Y.W. Tang
 40. D. Busath
 41. A. Busath
 42. S. Fisher
 43. M. Fisher
 44. D. Nonner
 45. J. Mitchell
 46. S.J. Marrink
 47. T. Imae
- 49. E. Ruiz de Medina50. M. Lal51. G.H. Chen52. S. Rice53. X. Song54. B. Alder

48. D. Henderson

- 54. B. Alder 55. W. Olivares 56. J. Valleau 57. Y.H. Chui 58. H. Watarai 59. R. Roth 60. X.H. Lu 61. X.C. Zeng 62. C. Millot
- 65. Y.I. Zhang66. Y. She67. Y.G. Li68. H.L. Liu

63. C. Marques

64. H.P. Cheng

- 69. Y. Yang
 70. J. Green
 71. D.P. Chen
 72. J.S. Clarke
 73. C.A. Angell
 74. Y.P. Chen
 75. W. Shi
 76. E. Sphor
 77. J.F. Lu
 78. C.H. Yu
 79. J.H. Clarke
 80. H.H. Pan
- 81. S. Jiang 82. C. Schmidt 83. G. Sphor 84. K. Jelinek
- 85. S.J. Han 86. C. Read 87. C. Tsitsilianis
- 88. J.S. Cheng 89. W.C. Wang 90. D. Sphor 91. F. Uhlik 92. D. Wang 93. R. Saykally
- 93. R. Saykally 94. A. Ntoni 95. Y. Qin 96. J.D. Li 97. J.W. Xie