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GUEST EDITORIAL

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GUEST EDITORIAL

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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 | 20. D. Boda |
| 2. H. Toxvaerd | 21. J.P. Badiali |
| 3. S. Garrett | 22. C. Liu |
| 4. C.C. Chen | 23. X. Feng |
| 5. C. Williams | 24. G. Hu |
| 6. J. Weeks | 25. L. Kadanoff |
| 7. S. Toxvaerd | 26. S. Yip |
| 8. B. Burgess | 27. H.F. Wang |
| 9. K.Y. Chan | 28. R. Kadanoff |
| 10. J. Percus | 29. H. Ding |
| 11. G. Stell | 30. Ms. Jin |
| 12. E. Magnin | 31. W. Dong |
| 13. H.C. Chang | 32. B. Eisenberg |
| 14. M.N. Dias Soeiro Cordeiro | 33. A. Eisenberg |
| 15. M. Valisko | 34. A. Trokhymchuk |
| 16. H.Z. Liu | 35. B. Ornella |
| 17. H.M. Hu | 36. K. Kurihara |
| 18. L. de La Torre Munoz | 37. L. Reatto |
| 19. J. Lewis | 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
48. D. Henderson
49. E. Ruiz de Medina
50. M. Lal
51. G.H. Chen
52. S. Rice
53. X. Song
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
63. C. Marques
64. H.P. Cheng
65. Y.I. Zhang
66. Y. She
67. Y.G. Li
68. H.L. Liu
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
94. A. Ntoni
95. Y. Qin
96. J.D. Li
97. J.W. Xie