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Guest Editorial: Special Issue to Commemorate 30 Years of Drying Technology

Evangelos Tsotsas^a, Zdzislaw Pakowski^b, Tadeusz Kudra^c & Sakamon Devahastin^d

^a Germany

^b Poland

^c Canada

^d Thailand Guest Editors of the 30th Anniversary Special Issue

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Guest Editorial: Special Issue to Commemorate 30 Years of *Drying Technology*

The purpose of this special issue is to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Drying Technology*. We see the reasons for celebrating not primarily in the round number of years passed since the introduction of the journal in 1982, but mainly in its uniqueness, success, internationality, interdisciplinary character, and the ability to shape the research field and promote the transfer of science into practice.

Uniqueness of the journal is self-evident, because there is simply no other scientific periodical exclusively dedicated to drying. Success and internationality are countable in terms of subscriptions, printed pages, bibliographic indices (for example, an impact factor of, presently, about 2), and the almost complete coverage of the globe by journal contributors. The promotion of the transfer of science into practice is difficult to measure, but those of us who work closely with industry know very well that *Drying Technology* is the first place to look at when confronted with real-world drying problems, and that many results published in the journal have found, directly or indirectly, their way to application.

As to the formation of the research field, it is probably the most important goal and indication of real impact for any scientific journal. In the case of *Drying Technology*, it may be assessed by comparing drying research 30 years ago and nowadays. With a certain simplification, one can say that the main focus of drying research 30 years ago was on dryer scaling up. This means that scientists were mainly involved in investigating heat and mass transfer in gas-solid systems typical of drying applications in order to find out, how large a dryer needs to be to fulfill a given dewatering duty. Such investigations were very close to thermodynamics and transport phenomena, with glass, sand and inert porous particles as the most popular materials.

Concerning the contemporary stand of drying research, it is reflected quite well in the contents of the present anniversary issue. We are very grateful to all our colleagues who have positively responded to our respective call by providing the excellent set of articles included in this issue. Some of these papers have review character, some others express opinions about achievements and future challenges in drying, many more report the results of current research work. In total, the “anniversary papers” indicate that

transport phenomena in multiphase systems are still an important topic, as they were 30 years ago. However, the papers show also clearly that several additional themes and crucial issues have strongly and seriously moved in the focus of contemporary drying research, such as the preservation and augmentation of product quality, the formation and formulation of multifunctional particles by drying, reduction of the energy demand and environmental footprint of the process, and process intensification by novel equipment configurations. Modern drying technology uses—and produces—rather soft and highly structured biomaterials than stiff inorganic compounds such as glass ballotini. It applies—and sometimes develops—advanced computational and experimental techniques, in a genuinely interdisciplinary frame. The richness and power of this research portfolio make us confident that farewell is not in the center of our present celebration, but rather the perspective and promise of thrilling research, and of new, innovative results for the next 30 years to come.

Behind this optimistic outlook are the preparatory effort and the founding act from the year 1982, which was mainly driven by Dr. Carl W. Hall—at that time in transition from a professorship at the Washington State University to the Directorate of Engineering of the National Science Foundation, both USA—and by Dr. Arun S. Mujumdar—in 1982 professor at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The drying community has given a highly earned tribute to Professor Hall on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of this journal, with a special issue dedicated to him in 2007.

Today we are paying the tribute to Professor Mujumdar, who took over after Professor Hall and successfully led *Drying Technology* to its renowned position as a drying community forum. The personal curriculum of Professor Mujumdar is so closely integrated with the journal’s history and development that the 30th anniversary of *Drying Technology* is without any doubt also his own anniversary. We were lucky and delighted to obtain a laudatio to his person, written by nobody less than Professor Czeslaw Strumillo from the Technical University of Lodz in Poland, another outstanding personality from our community.

The number of people who have also contributed to the success of *Drying Technology* over thirty years is so large, that it is impossible to give credentials to them by naming them here. All editors, guest editors, and members of the editorial board, the entire publishing staff, all the previous and present authors, many reviewers, and countless readers belong to this group of persons. We are honored by the opportunity to express our highest recognition of all their efforts—the past and the present ones, and those that will follow.

Prof. Evangelos Tsotsas, Germany

Prof. Zdzislaw Pakowski, Poland

Dr. Tadeusz Kudra, Canada

Prof. Sakamon Devahastin, Thailand

Guest Editors of the 30th Anniversary Special Issue