

PREFACE

RSCE-SOMChE 2008 is the formal proceedings of the 15th Regional Symposium of Chemical Engineering 2008 and the 22nd Symposium of Malaysian Chemical Engineers 2008 jointly held at the Impiana Hotel & Spa in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 2-3 December 2008. The combined symposia is a continuation of the two highly successful symposia; the former is an important annual forum for academicians, researchers, and practitioners in the South East and Pacific Asian region and the latter is an equally important forum for their Malaysian counterparts, to exchange knowledge and information in the broad area of chemical engineering science and technology. The RSCE-SOMChE 2008 has a pivotal role in improving chemical engineering research and linkages in the ASEAN region as well as in Malaysia.

The theme *Innovation for Sustainable Future* reflects the urgent need for chemical engineers to practice their art in a sustainable way to ensure future generations will still enjoy a high quality of life. In general, RSCE-SOMChE 2008 highlights the roles of chemical engineering in meeting the challenges and exploring opportunities in sustainable engineering.

As the chief editor of the proceedings, I am delighted that the response of papers has been overwhelming from so many countries. Exactly 402 abstracts were received and accepted but only 300 papers were finally received and accepted for inclusion in both volumes of the proceedings. I am happy to report that authors from 12 countries, 61 universities and 3 companies are participating in this conference. The countries are Malaysia, Australia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Singapore, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland & Thailand.

While RSCE-SOMChE 2008 set the pace for regional collaboration and sustainable development in the field of chemical engineering, the symposium also emphasizes innovative chemical engineering in meeting the goals of sustainable engineering. As the Third World develops at a very fast rate, there is concern that indiscriminate use of unsustainable technology there may destroy the environment at an even faster rate leading to environmental and ecological disasters some of which are already emerging.

The first volume of the proceedings contains the plenary papers and papers in the field of biomolecular and bioprocess engineering, complex fluid engineering, clean production and safe practice and food and product technology. The second volume contains papers in advanced materials and nanotechnology, process system engineering, renewable energy and reaction engineering.

The massive editorial effort has been lightened by untiring efforts of fellow editors. Finally I would like to acknowledge with thanks the efforts of Keynote lecturers and all authors in meeting manuscript deadlines and adhering to the format. I would like to apologize to authors if any errors inevitably have crept into their work during the editorial process.

Prof. Ir. Dr. Wan Ramli Wan Daud, Chief Editor, November 19, 2008