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## Editorial message

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The 3rd Asian Meeting on Electroceramics (AMEC-3) was held from 7 to 11 December 2003 at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Singapore. The Asian Meeting on Electroceramics (AMEC) was originated in Japan and the first two meetings were held successively in Japan, the 1st meeting in 2000 and the 2nd one in 2001. Both of these meetings were organized by the Electronics Division of the Ceramic Society of Japan. The organizers of AMEC-3 tried their best efforts to keep the standards, great momentum and spirit of the meeting in parallel to the earlier AMEC-1 and -2 and also attempted to strengthen further the research and development activities of electronic ceramics in Asia and internationally as well. The organizers brought the world-class researchers in the field to the meeting and facilitated their interaction with the young researchers and graduate students with industrial and institute researchers to exchange information, catalyze strong linkages between them. We also brought various representations from government and industries in order to make the groups aware of the needs of each other, to facilitate the possibilities of commercialization process of electronic ceramic products, and to promote AMEC as an international forum in this increasingly visible and important research area and to strengthen the strong international linkages.

A large number of distinguished colleagues and scholars around the world came to Singapore, to present their very recent findings and advances in the field and to exchange their research experiences in all aspects of the science and engineering in the areas related to the electronic ceramics during the conference. An overwhelming response from the community brought 529 abstracts to the AMEC-3 and 490 presentations were scheduled with 256 registered participants, including 48 invited presentations. The scientific contributions came from 37 countries and regions in five continents: Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand (Asia); Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Ukraine (Europe); Cuba and Mexico (Latin America); Canada and USA (North America); Australia and New Zealand (Oceanic). The general consensus of the participants for the organization and success of the meeting were highly positive and the scientific

program and the social activities of AMEC-3 were very highly complemented, and thus the committee feels highly satisfied by achieving the goals of the meeting and hence giving a great momentum to the cause of AMEC for its substantial and sustainable progress. The above figures of AMEC-3 give not only a clear indication and testimony of the strong growth and active development of electronic ceramic research in Asia, but also manifest that AMEC has become an international forum for the electronic ceramic community around the world and not just for Asian community only.

The AMEC-3 Proceedings includes 223 papers submitted to the conference, with 17 full invited papers and 28 presented invited abstracts. Many distinguished and professional scholars carefully reviewed the manuscripts during the meeting. Since many authors are not native English speakers and also due to the prompt publication of the proceedings, proficiency of language is generously tolerated as long as the content of a presentation/paper is understandable and sound. If there are unfortunate mistakes in this process, the blame should largely be born by the editors, not the authors.

We have, in this proceeding, also included the abstracts of the invited talks (which were not available in full manuscript form) for the completeness sake. Since the invited talks are of the nature of overviews, future trends and directions in electronic ceramics research given by the world-class scientists in this meeting, it was not an easy task by the presenters to write a full paper or for the editors to wait long to include those in these proceedings. In most cases, their work has been widely cited earlier or some new results are in the process of publication and thus can be extracted from the recent literature. Without the inclusion of their abstracts the proceedings otherwise may not be telling the full description and the high quality of the program of this successful AMEC-3 meeting.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all members of the International Advisory Committee, Industrial Advisory Committee, Organization committee, Program Committee, and Executive/Local Committee for their excellent work and contributions to the success of the AMEC-3, and to our distinguished and outstanding reviewers for their valuable time to review all the papers submitted to the meeting. We highly appreciate the sponsorship and financial support from

Exhibition and Convention Bureau of Singapore, Japanese Ceramic Society, Chinese Ceramic Society, Korean Ceramic Society, Electronic Division of American Ceramic Society, IEEE UFFC, Lee Foundation, The Tan Foundation, Singapore Defense Science Organization National Laboratories; LMS Technologies Pte Ltd., Caltron Pte Ltd., Leybold Vacuum Singapore Pte Ltd., Chief-Up International Co., Kanthal Electroheat (SEA) Pte Ltd., and Zogo Photonics Pte Ltd. We thank the strong support from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Nanyang Technological University and acknowledge the high efficiency and tireless work of the Conference Secretariat. We highly appreciate Dr. P. Vincenzini, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Ceramics International* and Elsevier Science Ltd. for their strong and generous support for the publication of the conference proceedings. Our special appreciation goes to Dr. Kui Yao, Dr. Xiaofeng Chen, Dr. Zhihong Wang, Dr. Hong Wang, Dr. Jiwei Zhai, Mr. Chen Chao, and Mr. Jinlong Du, for their help and assistance in the editorial process. Without all these efforts, the success of this AMEC-3 would have been difficult.

It is our great pleasure to announce that upon the decision of the AMEC-3 Working Committee Meeting, the 4th Asian Meeting on Electroceramics (AMEC-4) will be held in Hangzhou, a very beautiful city of China, in 2005. On behalf of the organizing committee of the AMEC-4, it is our great pleasure to extend this invitation to you to attend this meeting in a joyful and beautiful city of Hangzhou, China. See you at Hangzhou—the another successful AMEC-4 meeting place.

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