

Foreword

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These are challenging and exciting times. Ours is a world of diminishing natural resources, global environmental problems, and an interdependent international economy heavily fueled by traditional forms of energy. Concern on global environmental problems caused by fossil fuels is growing. This year we have been witnessing most damaging floods in the United States, Europe, Pakistan and China. Earlier, we have witnessed most deadly forest fires in California, Spain, Greece and Russia. These are all produced by the global warming and climate change resulting from the use of fossil fuels. Our challenges are then to develop new, clean renewable energy sources, to safeguard the quality of the environment, and to ensure the continued progress of our civilization. Our best hope for energy security and sustainable future is the development of sensible energy options, with one of the most promising options being the Hydrogen Energy System.

Biennial World Hydrogen Energy Conferences (WHECs) are the flagship conferences of the International Association for Hydrogen Energy (IAHE). They provide a platform for the world's distinguished energy and environmental scientists and engineers for presentations and discussions of the latest research results in the field of Hydrogen Economy. In keeping with the growing importance of the Hydrogen Energy System, the 18th WHEC 2010 Conference was one of the biggest and the best of the World Hydrogen Energy Conferences. The proceedings of the conference – consisting of more than 450 presentations and articles – have been put together in six volumes. No doubt, they will serve as useful reference and resource material for many years to come.

I strongly recommend this excellent six volume proceedings to energy engineers, industrialists, environmentalists and decision makers, as well as to those interested in the future of humankind and the welfare of the planet Earth.

