

Preface

The series of the Baltic International Conferences on Materials Engineering was started 19 years ago, focusing on materials and tribological problems. Since that time Engineering Materials & Tribology Conference – BALTMATTRIB became an open forum for researchers and engineers to exchange ideas, share thoughts and encourage development and cooperation in both basic and applied research in the fields of materials science, powder metallurgy, surface engineering and tribology.

The Conferences have been attractive for participants from academic institutions and industry. The BALTMATTRIB always seeks to forge cooperative links between researchers and engineers by bringing them together to present and listen to current research results in these areas. Participants from all over the world were present at the Conference held on 22–23 October 2009 in Tallinn, Estonia.

More than 60 papers from 20 countries were submitted to be presented at the Conference. After careful examination of the proposed papers, 40 papers from 15 countries were accepted for oral presentations and authors of selected papers were invited to submit their papers for publication in this Special Issue of Estonian Journal of Engineering.

I am delighted with the response of all the authors and the referees and would like to thank them all for their speedy response, which allowed us to produce this volume. Special thanks also go to the Estonian Ministry of Education (target-financed projects SF 01400062s08 and SF 01400091s08), Tallinn University of Technology (base-financed project BF120), Doctoral School “Functional Materials and Technologies” of UT and TUT and to City of Tallinn.

Priit Kulu
Chairman of BALTMATTRIB 2009