

## FOREWORD

This special issue of the *Environmental Protection Engineering* contains manuscripts of the lectures delivered in the Summer School on Industrial Application of Membrane Processes that was held in Szklarska Poręba on 4<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> May, 1999. A direct stimulus to organise the summer school was the co-operation between European universities within the framework of the ERASMUS Programme. By courtesy of the European academic teachers from Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain and Poland, who are experienced in membrane science and practice, the lectures were collected and published in the form of a special issue of the quarterly mentioned above.

The topics of the lectures were focussed on the industrial applications of membrane processes. The main idea was to adapt modern membrane techniques to practical use in Poland. The membrane techniques are the most efficient separation processes that help to solve many industrial problems, including the reduction of energy consumption, lowering of the costs and environment protection.

The lectures were directed to engineers and students from several Polish universities, i.e. Technical Universities of Wrocław, Gliwice, Szczecin, Częstochowa, Universities of Toruń and Opole.

The two previous international summer schools on membrane processes in Poland were organised by Prof. Tomasz Winnicki from the Technical University of Wrocław in Szklarska Poręba in 1984, and in Gdańsk-Sobieszewo in 1987 under the auspices of ESMST. Another summer school was held in 1992 within the framework of the TEMPUS Programme by Prof. Anna Narębska from the Toruń University.

The actual summer school in Szklarska Poręba held on 4–7 May, 1999 was organised as a joint action of the scientists representing the Technical University of Wrocław and members of the Membrane Section of PTCh (Polish Chemical Association) with the contribution of Prof. Michał Bodzek and Dr. Krystyna Konieczny from the TU of Gliwice, Dr. Wojciech Kujawski from the University of Toruń, Dr. Maria Tomaszewska from the TU of Szczecin and finally Prof. Tomasz Winnicki and Prof. Andrzej Kołtuniewicz from the Technical University of Wrocław.

I would like to express our gratitude and cordial thanks to all colleagues from abroad, who greatly contribute to organising this school. We wish to acknowledge the

valuable work of Prof. João Crespo from Lisbon, Prof. Carme Güell and Prof. Francisco Lopez from Tarragona, Prof. Giovanni Golemme from Cosenza and Prof. Sigfried Ripperger from Dresden. We appreciate their great efforts to strengthen a fruitful co-operation between our Universities.

*Andrzej Kottuniewicz*