

PREFACE

The 4th Balkan Conference on Metallurgy, traditional meeting of metallurgical scientists and experts organized by Balkan Union of Metallurgists (BUM) and accordingly by Association of Metallurgical Engineers of Serbia (AME) took place on September 27-29, 2006 in Zlatibor, Serbia, after the previous in Varna, Bulgaria (1996), Bucharest, Romania (2000) and Ohrid, Macedonia (2003).

The aim of the 4th Balkan Conference on Metallurgy was to present scientific research achievements and perspective of metals industry of South-East Europe, bringing together specialists, research scientists and industrial technologists. Authors from universities, research centers and industry were invited to submit papers to the Conference.

The Conference program generally included the following topics: future of metal industry in Balkan countries; geology and minerals potentials for metallurgy production; new industrial achievements, developments and trends in extractive metallurgy; ferrous and nonferrous metals production; metal forming, casting, powder metallurgy; new and advanced materials; coating, galvanizing, corrosion and protection of metals; process control and optimization; metals recycling and waste minimization and environmental protection.

98 papers and 4 presentations of Companies, arrived before august 2006, given in the proceedings of Conference, were clasified under five integral chapters:

- Plenary lectures (7)*
- Minerals potentials (6)*
- Recycling and enviromental protection (13)*
- Process metallurgy (34)*
- Materials egineering (38)*

This Special Issue of the MJoM presents the review papers of the corresponding plenary lectures.