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Materials Chemistry and Physics 72 (2001) 109

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**MATERIALS  
CHEMISTRY AND  
PHYSICS**

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## Preface

The production of synthetic diamond from low-pressure gases was first claimed in 1911 by von Bolton. However, little attention was given to these claims. Systematic studies of diamond vapor deposition techniques began primarily in the 1950s in General Electric Research Center and the Soviet Union. The major Japanese effort began in the 1970s. The first Taiwanese effort began in 1988 by Prof. S.C. Yu of National Cheng Kung University (Hot filament CVD method) and Prof. Cheng-Tzu Kuo of National Chiao Tung University (Microwave plasma CVD method).

Through the continuous supports of the National Science Council of Taiwan, the diamond research has received much attention in the past decade both in academic and industrial communities in Taiwan. The first Taiwan industrial company to devote to applications of the synthetic diamond films was China Grinding Wheel Corporation (CGWC). Nowadays, the diamond researches in Taiwan mainly include diamond applications, surface and interface phenomena, diamond processing, electron emission and nanotubes, and related materials.

We herewith warmly thank the Executive and Scientific Committee members for their help, advice and time spent to read and comment on the whole manuscripts. We would also like to thank graduate students of Prof. Cheng-Tzu Kuo's group for help, especially, Hui-Lin Chang, Jing-Hwa Lin and Chao-Hsun Lin.

Although Taiwan just suffered greatly in 1998 from the biggest earthquake within the last era, we would like to prove to the international friends that we will stand up. This conference was organized by Academia Sinica and National Taiwan University in such a difficult year, and was supported by CSMS, CTCI Foundation, MRS-ITRI, CGWC and Economic Daily News.

With the enthusiastic support of Prof. Lih J. Chen, Dr. Vijala Kiruvanayagam and Miss Judy Irving, the Editors of Materials Chemistry and Physics, Elsevier consented to publish this special issue.

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