

## EDITORIAL

The year gone by, i.e. 2011, has seen the revival of the “*International Journal of Tea Science (IJTS)*”, that had been hibernating for some years. Initially, this *IJTS* resurgence in India began with the dedication, committed efforts and contributions by a few “tea-enthusiasts” and the “Founders”, now we invite other associates with the tea industry. The revival of the Journal *IJTS* would not have been possible without an equal partnership with the Tea Board of India and their generous financial backing to the *IJTS* Publication Project, which is gratefully acknowledged by the Society, ISTS. Now taking this journey further to the next milestone, we are pleased to publish this “**Special Issue on Tea in China**”, as the first issue in 2012.

This journal provides a unique forum for sharing the latest researches in tea science through full-length papers and topical reviews, state-of-the-art technology adoption worldwide, News & Views, Short Communications, and Book Reviews, and it also helps bring budding talents to the forefront by appreciating their efforts in both research and/or technology driven projects.

This special issue, on “Tea in China”, of *IJTS*, Volume 8, Issue (2), is a tribute to the Chinese tea industry in the largest tea-producing country in the world, and the original “home” of tea where tea was first known for its medicinal properties. This special issue comprises contributions on various categories of tea produced in China, for example, **Green tea, Oolong tea, Black tea, Dark tea**, etc. Most remarkable is the development of “Premium Tea in China and its Contributions in the Development of China Tea Industry” which has shaped the tea industry of China. The review by Chen Zongmao and Lin Zhi focuses on the new direction of tea research on “deep processing” for value added products where the income from the secondary industry of diversified tea products has outstripped the earnings from the primary source viz. sale of tea as a traditional beverage.

Papers authored by the veterans of tea science from China, namely Professors Chen Zongmao, Lin Zhi, Shi Zhaopeng, Chen Dong, Wu Hualing, Guo Ya-ling, Liang Chen, Ming-Zhe Yao, Xin-Chao Wang and Ya-Jun Yang have featured in this issue with the focus on special characteristics and unique flavours of Chinese tea in an attempt to bring this knowledge before the global community. Readers worldwide with an unquenched desire for tasting all types of tea would be happy to note that China, with its unique habitats and climate, has a rich variety of genetic resources of tea and diverse range of teas to offer to the world.

As usual the issue contains a section on “**Tea Science Abstracts**”, classified into more than thirty sub-categories. It also features a summary report on the “**World Tea Science Congress**” held late last year at Jorhat (Assam) in India on the occasion of Tocklai completing one hundred years of productive research & development. An unusual feature of this issue is a hark back to the past publications by Chinese scientists in the ISTS books by the inclusion of a CD reproducing two interesting and important papers, one on the agrotechnology of tea in China and the other on purification of theanine, in addition to usual features.

*IJTS* wishes to thank the contributors from China, in particular the co-editor, Professor Chen Zongmao, for coordinating with the individual authors and for writing the Guest Editorial for this issue. The efforts of the entire editorial team, the copy editor, Dr Ved Kharbanda, and the desk editor, Mr Puneet S. Sirari, are also appreciated in bringing this issue before you.

We’ll keep spreading the science based research and wisdom through the forthcoming issues of *IJTS* on tea, for the benefit of the global community as well as for the preservation of this precious gift of nature to the planet earth, the “tea plant” – *Happy reading ...*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

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