There are no industrial products available without joining at various scales in the world. While microjoining has become the most critical process in manufacturing of micro-devices and micro-systems, new challenges on nanojoining has been continuing for innovative technological progresses and advancing rapidly for nano-devices and nano-systems.

Given that premise, the First International Conference on Nanojoining and Microjoining (NMJ 2012) was held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, December 2–5, 2012, organized by Prof. Norman Zhou from University of Waterloo, Prof. Akio Hirose from Osaka University, and Prof. Guisheng Zou from Tsinghua University. The technical program consisted of one keynote session, ten oral sessions and one poster session, which included; laser nanojoining and microjoining, 3D electronics packaging, and others. There were five keynote presentations, ten invited talks, forty two oral presentations and seventeen posters by 116 researchers from eleven countries. The delegates enjoyed stimulating presentations and discussions along with other official events, such as the conference banquet and the excursion to the Summer Palace and the Great Wall.

This special issue on nanojoining and microjoining includes contributed papers not only from the speakers in NMJ2012 but also from researchers in the field of nanojoining and microjoining. The editors wish this special issue would contribute to the further development of the research field of nanojoining and microjoining.

March 28, 2013

Y. Norman Zhou1, Akio Hirose2, Guisheng Zou3, Michael Mayer1, Mathieu Brochu4, Jae-Pil Jung5, Anming Hu1, and Tomokazu Sano2

1University of Waterloo, Canada
2Osaka University, Japan
3Tsinghua University, China
4McGill University, Canada
5The University of Seoul, Korea