

## PREFACE

This supplement of *Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences* contains all selected short papers in acceptance for presentation either orally or as posters at the Seventh International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores (ISNH7) held during September 17-21, 2007 in Beijing, China.

The main objective of this symposium is to provide an international forum for development, exchange and promotion of knowledge on the nutrition of terrestrial and aquatic herbivores in captive and free-living environments. The submitted papers including in this supplement cover diverse scopes, including traditional, molecular and immune approaches to understand fermentative and enzymic digestion of nutrients in ruminant animals. Although this special issue does not receive any short papers dealing with the topic of herbivore production strategies, they are very important in the mixed/integrated agriculture and agro-forestry systems, especially in developing countries.

Herbivore nutrition is associated with promotion of efficient, safe and sustainable herbivore production. Therefore, the theme of this present symposium is Herbivore Nutrition for the Development of Efficient, Safe and Sustainable Livestock Production. We are so happy that many papers from countries placed their emphases on these topics. It is hoped that all the information would be well shared in the forum, and also will serve to stimulate further research and development in these important areas.

Finally, I am really indebted to Professor Jan Kowalczyk and his group for their very excellent job in publishing these papers in the *Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences*. Without their efforts, it would be impossible to produce such high quality of contributed paper supplement.

Qingxiang Meng, Ph.D  
Professor of Ruminant Nutrition  
Chair, Academic Committee  
Local Organising Committee  
ISNH7, Beijing, China