



## Introduction to the Thin Films Society (TFS)

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(Received January 17, 2024)

### 1. Introduction

The inception of the Thin Films Society (TFS) marked a milestone in the realm of thin films and coatings technologies. Established in 2009 in Singapore, the Society emerged as the world pioneering professional society dedicated to the art of science and technology of thin films and surface coatings. Created explicitly for thin films enthusiasts worldwide—spanning academic researchers and students, industrial practitioners, equipment suppliers, and product designers—the Society's primary aim is to foster the exchange of cutting-edge knowledge and shared experiences within this specialized field.

The society is composed of an Executive Committee, with President, Vice President, Treasury, Secretary General and Specialty Secretaries on Education, Technical, Publication, Membership and Operations. In addition, Regional Vice Presidents were selected from countries or regions in Asia and beyond. These Regional Vice Presidents have easy access and right channels to reach the thin films and coatings researchers in their respective countries or regions.

The Society's ordinary membership is on invitation basis. Distinguished individuals who have established a reputation or track record of success in the field of thin films and coatings are also invited to apply for the TFS Fellowship, which may be gained through either a technical contribution or through managerial or entrepreneurial skills which have led to recognition in these fields, or through other routes which have contributed to the work and objectives of the Society.

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Fig. 1. (color online). Thin Films Society Logo.

### 2. Thin Films Society Conference Series

The signature event of TFS is the “ThinFilms” Conference Series : “The International Conference on the Technological Advances in Thin Films and Surface Coatings”. The conference series, a hallmark biennial event initiated in 2002 (ThinFilms2002) with a humble gathering of 70 papers, skyrocketed to prominence with over 800 papers presented in its 5th event, the “ThinFilms2010”, and remains the size of 600–800 papers presented thereafter. The locations of the conference series are based at its birthplace in Singapore (ThinFilms2002, ThinFilms2004, ThinFilms2006, ThinFilms2008, ThinFilms2012 and ThinFilms2016) with some of the conferences held in China (ThinFilms2010 in Harbin, ThinFilms2014 in Chongqing, and ThinFilms2018 in Shenzhen). The scheduled ThinFilms2020 and ThinFilms2022 were unfortunately not realized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each of the conference events features a Special Issue journal publication in SCI Q1 ranked journals. High quality work presented in the ThinFilms Conference qualifies for submission to the special issues, and selected papers are published after stringent peer review process handled by guest editors.

Despite the temporary hiatus due to the pandemic, the upcoming ThinFilms2024 conference, marking the 10th event in this prestigious series, signifies a triumphant return after the break and commemorates 20 years of this pivotal global event within the thin films community.

### 3. Thin Films Society Webinar Series

Since July 2022, Thin Films Society started the new initiative of monthly webinars with cutting edge research talks delivered by experts from all over the world. This is an extension of the Society's educational program. The online webinars have been well-received by our audience since the first launch, attracting a total of more

than ten thousand participants during the live broadcast sessions. The online platform further strengthened the interaction and knowledge exchange of the thin films and surface coating community.

#### 4. International Network and Collaboration

The Society has a robust international network strategically bolstered by Regional Vice Presidents. The Regional Vice Presidents are highly esteemed scholars carefully selected from diverse regions around the world including China, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and USA. These leaders serve as vital connectors, providing direct access and robust channels to reach thin films and coatings researchers in their respective territories. This network acts as an international conduit, ensuring swift and effective distribution of critical information, equipment insights, and testing methodologies to the global thin film's community.

In 2023, TFS signed an official collaboration agreement with Japanese Society of Vacuum and Surface Science to promote and enlarge the exchange of scientific, technical, and professional knowledge, and thereby to better serve the interests and welfare of the members in both societies.

In addition to its flagship conference, the Thin Films Society actively supports and/or sponsors various academic conferences and workshops hosted by allied societies and industry associations through “Thin Films Society Workshop” activities. A few recent years’ events include:

- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2011 @ Sanya** (22nd December 2011 at Sanya Wan Financial Resort, Hainan, China)
- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2013 @ Chongqing** (13th July 2013, Chongqing, China)
- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2015 @ Taichung** (15–18 July 2015 at Da-Yeh University, Taiwan)
- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2017 @ Jeju** cum Korea Society of Precision Engineering Spring Meeting (17–19 May 2017 at Ramada Plaza Jeju, South Korea)
- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2017 @ Jinan** cum sponsorship to the Thin Films & Photonics and Organic Electronics Interdisciplinary Workshop (26–27 September 2017 at Jinan, China)
- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2018 @ Sendai** in concordance with the 6th International Symposium on

Advanced Ceramics (ISAC-6) and 7th Asia-Oceania Ceramic Federation Conference (AOCF-7) (12–14 March 2018 at Sendai, Japan)

- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2018 @ Kashgar, Xinjiang** on Interdisciplinary Technologies (TFIW2018) (1–4 June 2018 at Kashgar, Xinjiang, China)
- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2019 @ Sapporo** (29–31 May 2019 at Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan)
- **Thin Films Society Workshop 2023 @ Zhengzhou** cum Forum on New Materials Development of the Central 6 Provinces of China, (Zhengzhou, Henan, China, Dec. 15–17, 2023.)

Other selected activities include co-organization for the Taiwan Association for Coating and Thin Film Technology (TACT) 2015 and 2020 Conferences, the 2nd China International Vacuum Coating Technical Conference & Exhibition (14–16 June 2017 at Shenzhen), and so on.

The Society has been actively expanding our network by co-hosting or participating in organization of conferences to bring closer the interaction of thin film enthusiasts around the world.



**Fig. 2.** (color online). Selected Thin Films Society Workshop activities.

#### 5. Looking Forward

As the Thin Films Society embarks on its journey beyond its formative years, it continues to serve as the beacon of innovation, collaboration, and advancement within the dynamic world of thin films and coatings. With ThinFilms2024 on the horizon, the global community eagerly awaits this milestone event, poised to celebrate two decades of invaluable contributions and discoveries in this specialized field. We welcome you to visit the Thin Films Society website ([thinfilms.sg](http://thinfilms.sg)) to learn more about our activities.