

Preface

The first phase of the “Chang’e” Program was officially approved and put into implementation in January, 2004, and the second and third phases of lunar exploration under the Chang’e Program (soft landing and lunar surface sample collection and return to Earth by a robot) have been listed in the long-term planning of China’s scientific and technological development. Lunar exploration marks the third milestone of China’s space endeavors, and it will also give a great impetus to the rapid advancement of lunar science, planetary remote sensing, comparative planetology and space environmental science. Not long ago, a breakthrough was made in China’s Antarctic Meteorite Exploration. The 19th Chinese Antarctic Research Expedition found and recovered a total of 4448 meteorites in the Grove Mountains region of southeastern Antarctica. China is now in possession of a total of 4480 Antarctic meteorites, second only to Japan and the United States. In China, a new era for the development of cosmochemistry and planetary sciences has been ushered in. Prof. Ouyang Ziyuan is the chief scientist of the Chinese Moon exploration project, and he has made great contributions to the study of cosmochemistry and planetary sciences. In this special issue, we publish a series of research articles contributed by Prof. Ouyang’s group and other researchers. It is our hope that this special issue will arouse ever-increasing interests of and encourage more and more geoscientific researchers in China to the exciting fields of cosmochemistry and planetary sciences.

Editorial Board
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