

Preface

The articles in this volume originates from lectures given at the international conference on *Metric and Differential Geometry*, May 11–15, 2009. Held at the Chern Institute of Mathematics, Tianjin and the Capital Normal University, Beijing, the main goal of the conference is to bring together leading experts to survey the recent advances in metric and differential geometry. Major topics covered in the conference include metric spaces, Einstein manifolds, Kähler geometry, geometric flows, index theory and hypoelliptic Laplacian, analytic torsions, and differential K -theory. This is reflected well in the collection in the volume. The conference was also used as an occasion to celebrate the 65th birthday of Jeff Cheeger, whose immense influence can be felt in many of these fields.

We acknowledge the financial support of Chern Institute of Mathematics and Capital Normal University for the realization of the conference and NSF for the preparation of these proceedings. We are very grateful for all the referees for their careful job in reviewing the contributions to this volume and for their thoughtful suggestions for improvements.

And we thank all the contributors to these proceedings. With submissions that they all could have sent for publication to excellent mathematical journals, they made possible the volume that we present here.

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