

## Preface

Since China opened her doors and started to introduce reforms some 17 years ago; a great number of Chinese scientists of younger generations had the opportunity to have higher educations and to enter the field of advanced scientific research. In recent years, more and more Chinese names have been entering the lists of authors of advanced publications in the field of catalytic science and technology, and most of these were educated in this time period. The need for communication between these scientists lead to the planning of a series of scientific meetings with an international background, the Global Conferences of Young Chinese Scientists on Catalysis Science and Technology. These meetings will emphasise the age of the participants and their introduction represents a milestone in the internationalization of Chinese catalysis research.

With the encouragement of Professor Julian Ross and the help of Professors Michel Che and Professor Harold Kung, we present in this issue of *Catalysis Today* to our international colleagues selected papers from the first conference of the series, held from 12th to 15th September 1995 on the campus of Tianjin University. The selection of papers included here was based on the themes of these presentations. Two special issues of two Chinese journals have been published in English at the same time, they being

based on the other papers presented at the conference.

As you will have noticed, an issue of international journal such as *Catalysis Today* in which the majority of the authors are Chinese scientists is still a rarity. It is to be hoped that this is the first of many such publications. I hope that this issue will be accepted as a worthwhile contribution to the catalysis literature and that our kind colleagues in developed countries will not be too critical of our science at a time when we are starting to show ourselves to the world and still have linguistic problems and many other difficulties.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to Dr. Can Li of Northwestern University, Dr. Yuesheng Lin of the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Zhicheng Hu of Engelhard Research Center and Dr. Xiaoding Xu of Delft University of Technology, and to those we have worked together for the success of the conference.

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