

Editor's Note

You have before you the proceedings of a rather unique conference, one organised to encourage contributions from young scientists and, even more particularly, from young Chinese scientists. A striking feature of the meeting, which I was privileged to attend as one of the few non-Chinese participants, was the very significant presence of young Chinese catalytic chemists who are based outside China, many of whom were originally graduates of Chinese universities and who were returning to China for the first time for many years. All of those of us who were from outside China were very impressed by what is happening there in the field of catalysis and by how well equipped are the laboratories. The standard of

the science being carried out is also apparently high, as evidenced by the papers in this issue. However, it was evident to us all that Chinese scientists operating within China feel themselves to be very isolated from the rest of the world and that they all have a clear wish to communicate more openly with their colleagues in other lands. It is hoped that the publication of part of the proceedings of this conference in *Catalysis Today* will help in some small way with the development of new links with our colleagues in China.

Julian Ross