

Preface

This issue of *Catalysis Today*, is a selection of the papers presented at the First International Symposium on **Interaction of Industrial and Fundamental Research in Catalysis** held on October 30–31, 1996 at the campus of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva, Israel. The Blechner Center for Industrial Catalysis and Process Development was inaugurated during the symposium.

The aim of the conference was to bring together international experts from industry and academia who presented and discussed aspects of industrial and fundamental research in catalysis. A wide range of topics was covered which includes oxidations, hydrogenations, hydrotreating, zeolites, and novel materials in catalysis.

Of the 18 papers presented at the symposium, only 10 are published in this special edition. The keynote lecture, *Perspectives in Catalysis*, given by Prof. R.A. van Santen from Eindhoven University of Technology was published in *Chem. Eng. Sci.*, 50 (1995) 4027–4044. The papers, *Sol–Gel Ceramic Materials: Versatile Hosts for Heterogeneous Catalysts*, presented by Prof. D. Avnir from the Hebrew University

and Catalytic Processes for Olefin Production from LPG, by Mr. P. van den Oosterkamp from KTI B.V., were published in *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 28 (1995) 328–334, and *Chemtech*, 24–29 February 1996, respectively. Other papers presented by scientists from the industry were *Industrial Applications of Zeolites in Fine Chemicals Synthesis*, Dr. L. Gilbert from Rhone-Poulenc Recherches; *Recent Advances and Future Developments of Hydrogenation Catalysis*, Mr. K.G. Griffin from Johnson Matthey; *Carbon Molecular Sieves as Support for Special Catalysts*, Dr. J.E. Koresh from Nuclear Center Negev; *The Effect of Catalyst Mean Pore Diameter on the Performance of FCC Pretreat Catalysts*, Mr. S.L. Lee from Akzo Nobel Chemicals; and *Zirconium Based Catalysts – Industrial Uses*, Dr. P.J. Moles from MEL Chemicals, will be published elsewhere.

The contribution of the authors of papers in this issue of *Catalysis Today* is specifically acknowledged.

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