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Foreword

As one of a series of biannual meetings which has been held since 1990, the Catalysis Group, jointly with the Industrial Chemistry Division of the Italian Chemical Society, organised in 1998 (8-12 June) the Fifth National Seminar on Catalysis. This meeting, aimed at graduates, post-docs and students, had as its topic treated Kinetics and Modelling of Catalytic Reactions: from Laboratory to Industrial Reactor. The Seminar has been divided into three parts dealing with 'Fundamentals', 'Reaction Engineering', and 'Examples and Case Histories', respectively. The lectures were given in either Italian or English, according to the mother language of the speaker. Dr. C. Perego and Prof. L. Forni were the Co-directors of the Seminar. The site of the meeting was Tanka Village, a modern touristic resort on the seaside near Villasimius, a delightful site on the southern coast of Sardinia, some 45km east of Cagliari. The participants were 116 young graduates,

graduating and Ph.D. students or post-docs, as well as researchers, chemists, designers and practicing engineers, those coming from both university and various sectors of chemical industry. The speakers, from both academia and industry, were requested to provide the full text of their lectures so that they could be collected in a book that was distributed to the attendants of the Seminar. The Co-directors chaired the Editorial Board which produced the book.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Editor of Catalysis Today, who, as for the Third and Fourth Seminars, agreed to publish the lectures of this Fifth Seminar, after the usual refereeing procedure, in this special issue of the journal.

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