

Preface

As a commemoration of re-establishment of Catalysis Research Center (CRC), Hokkaido University, we organized the 10th CRC International Symposium on "Fabrication of Nano-structured Materials and Catalytic Functions" which was held on December 4–7, 1999 in Sapporo, Japan. This symposium was co-sponsored by Catalysis Society of Japan as a Japan–France–Germany Trilateral Symposium. This volume is a collection of 14 papers that touch catalysis and metal complexes, nano-sized materials related with the design of heterogeneous catalysts. The first five papers concern design and characterization of nano-structured materials using new-type metal complexes and porous materials, and their catalysis, four papers on metal complex/bimetallic cluster catalysts for selective oxidation and polymerization; the last five papers are devoted to catalyst preparation for metal sulfide catalysts. These papers were some of the four plenary lectures, two main sessions with 51 oral presentations discussing "Molecular design and functions of assembled metal complexes" (Session A) and "Surface design and catalysis" (Session B) and 28 poster presentations.

To our knowledge, this was the first discussion on catalyst preparation, characterization and their functions related with nano-structured materials bridging homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis by research scientists in the international community, particularly in the Japan–France–Germany frameworks. The guest editors would like to acknowledge Prof. M. Misono for his help and kind suggestions for our editorial work on this Catalysis Today issue.

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