

Preface

Environmental concern promotes us to produce higher quality gasoline which is high in octane number and contains reduced amounts of aromatics and olefins. Transformation of hydrocarbons, in particular production of branched alkanes, became one of the important targets in the petroleum refinery. Recently, skeletal isomerization of alkanes has been recognized to be a suitable reaction for the production of highly branched alkanes, and several novel catalysts have been proposed.

On the occasion when TOCAT 4 (Fourth Tokyo Conference on Advanced Catalytic Science and Technology) was held during July 14–19, 2002, a small symposium on the acid-catalyzed transformation of alkanes was organized as the Post Conference of TOCAT 4 which was held on July 22, 2002 in Sapporo. The Post Conference aimed at further development of acid-catalyzed transformation of hydrocarbons by bridging fundamental knowledge and applied technology. The organizing committee invited nine experts both from academia and industry to present their researches. Among them, six experts agreed to submit their papers to the Special Issue of Catalysis Today. In addition to these, the editors invited Prof. Y. Ono to submit a paper covering mechanistic aspect of the transformation of hydrocarbons.

The successful of organizing of the Post Conference was possible due to the financial support of the following sponsors which is greatly acknowledged: TOCAT 4 Organizing Committee, Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation, Hokkaido Government Tourism Promotion Division. The Post Conference was organized by: Prof. Hideshi Hattori (Hokkaido University, Sapporo), Chairman; Prof. Toshio Okuhara (Hokkaido University, Sapporo), Secretary; Prof. Wataru Ueda (Hokkaido University, Sapporo), Member.

The submitted papers were subjected to normal reviewing procedures. The guest editors would like to express their appreciation to those who took efforts in reviewing the manuscripts.

Hideshi Hattori
Toshio Okuhara*

*Graduate School of Environmental
Earth Science Hokkaido University
Sapporo 060-0810, Japan*

*Corresponding author. Tel./fax: +81-11-706-4513
E-mail address: oku@ees.hokudai.ac.jp
(T. Okuhara)