

## Preface

The Brazilian Congress on Catalysis started 20 years ago and since the beginning was of great interest for industry and academia, as reported recently in a review in *Cattech* [1]. This 11th Congress was particularly of great interest for South America, inaugurating the 1st Mercosul Catalysis Meeting, with the participation of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile and as invited member Venezuela. However, besides the growing participation, the quality has markedly improved, which motivated us to publish a Special Issue in *Catalysis Today*, selecting the best papers presented at the 11th Brazilian Congress on Catalysis in 2001, after evaluation of recognized international reviewers and the approval of the Editor Prof. J. Ross.

More than 250 contributions from Brazil, Argentina and some other countries were received. From these, 229 were selected to be presented at the symposium either as oral (85) or poster (144).

Six plenary lectures were given by Avelino Corma Canós (Valencia, Spain), Fábio Ribeiro (Worcester, USA), Wilhelm F. Meier (Saarland, Germany), Francisco J. Machado (Caracas, Venezuela), Daniel E. Damiani (Bahia Blanca, Argentina) and Henri Rudler (Paris, France).

The symposium was held under the auspices of the Brazilian Catalysis Society (SBCat), Brazilian Petroleum Institute (IBP), Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), Fundação Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES), Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Rio Grande do Sul (FAPERGS), Ministério de Ciência e Tecnologia (MCT) and with the financial support from several chemical industries.

During the Congress, research results on metallic, sulfide, mixed oxide in heterogeneous catalysts and homogeneous catalysts, as well as materials

characterization and important industrial applications in environmental and energy sources were enthusiastically discussed either after each presentation or in the poster section. Noteworthy was the improvement attained in the last 3 years in these research fields, as well as the greater interest in developing new research areas in catalysis, process development and materials. In particular, there were some research topics which should be of interest for industrial applications in next future.

In this Special Issue of *Catalysis Today*, 8 contributions are published, representing what the spirit of the symposium was.

We would like to thank all the contributors to this Special Issue as well as the colleagues all over the world who acted as referees for the submitted papers. We also hope that the material presented here will stimulate further development in catalysis.

We would like to acknowledge the Organizing and Scientific Committees, and in particular the Brazilian and International invited conferences.

## Reference

- [1] M. Schmal, D. Cardoso, *Cattech* 7 (1) (2003) 6–9.

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