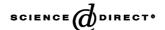


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## **Preface**

The Third Conference of the Indo-Pacific Catalysis Association (IPCAT-3) was jointly held with The 21st Taiwan Symposium on Catalysis and Reaction Engineering (TSCRE-2003) on 16–18 November 2003 in Taipei, Taiwan. Following the success of the two former conferences in Cape Town, South Africa (January 1998) and Pune, India (January 2001), IPCAT-3 provided an opportunity to enhance links and to stimulate cooperation among catalysis researchers from different countries, especially in the Indo-Pacific Rim. In addition, a Pre-Conference School themed on "Advanced Methods in Characterization of Catalysts and Materials" was also held on 12–15 November 2003 in Hsinchu, Taiwan. TSCRE is held annually and the major event for scientists

and engineers in Taiwan whose research focus is on the areas of catalysis and reaction engineering.

The 11 papers presented as invited lectures and oral presentations of IPCAT-3 and Pre-Conference School, covering theoretical studies as well as experimental investigations by advanced techniques spanning from NMR, EPR, IR, NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD to synchrotron radiation, were collected and are included in this special issue.

Kuei-Jung Chao Tsinghua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan Shang-Bin Liu Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan Available online 24 August 2004