

Foreword

The Sixth International Conference on Catalysis in Membrane Reactors, ICCMR-6, marked the 10-year anniversary of this conference series, which was started in 1994 in Villeurbanne/Lyon, France. Subsequent ICCMR meetings have been held at Moscow (Russia, 1996), Copenhagen (Denmark, 1998), Zaragoza (Spain, 2000) and Dalian (China, 2002).

ICCMR-6 took place in Lahnstein/Germany during July 6–9, 2004. It was sponsored by Uhde GmbH, Degussa AG, Inocermin GmbH and the Subject Division Catalysis under the Society for Chemical Technology and Biotechnology, DECHEMA e.V., and organised by DECHEMA e.V. The meeting covered many aspects of the highly interdisciplinary field of catalytic membrane reactors, including the preparation of new and improved membrane materials, new experimental and modelling achievements and progress reports about old and new proposed applications of membrane reactors.

For the first time a pre-conference workshop on fundamentals of catalytic membrane reactors was held, with topics on material aspects of polymer and inorganic membranes, membrane transport mechanisms and reaction engineering for membrane reactors. Its aim was mainly to introduce new colleagues to the field, but having been completely sold out with more than 50 participants, this idea

attracted many more who took the chance to profit from the teaching experience of other experts.

The conference was attended by a little more than 150 participants from over 20 countries. Five plenary lectures, 40 oral contributions and 82 posters were presented during two and a half days. This special issue contains 36 of these papers. The organisers and the editor is grateful to the members of the International Scientific Committee and to other colleagues for their strict initial reviewing of the abstracts and in particular of the contributed papers, and for their numerous valuable suggestions to improve the scientific quality of these papers.

It is these efforts and those of the authors facing the suggestions that makes me sincerely hope that the present volume of Catalysis Today will provide the reader with an up-to-date impression of the development in the field of catalytic membrane reactors.

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Available online 9 April 2005