

Foreword

This special issue of Catalysis Today contains selected high quality papers presented at the “Heterogeneous Catalysis” technical session organised and chaired by Dr. Giuseppe Fierro and Dr. Aidan Doyle (Guest Editors) during the International Conference on Surfaces, Coatings and Nanostructured Materials (nanoSMat). The conference was held at the University of Aveiro in Portugal during 7–9 September 2005. The event aimed at bringing together research scientists from both academia and industry working in the fields of surfaces, coatings and nanostructured materials and to mutually exchange their experiences, knowledge and ideas as well as the technical know-how.

The overall event attracted around 220 participants from 36 countries and six continents of the world. Over 200 papers, including 30 invited, were presented in four parallel oral sessions and a poster session. The plenary lecture was given by

the Nobel Laureate Sir Prof. Harry Kroto from the Florida State University, USA.

As the conference chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciations to all the delegates for travelling all the way to Portugal to lend their support to the conference, and gratitude to the international scientific committee for their strong support and to the organising committee for their striving effort in making the conference a great success.

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