

Editorial

The 7th International Symposium on Catalysis Applied to Fine Chemicals (7th CAFC) was held in the charming city of Bingen, Germany, next to the historical place of the city of Mainz and the world famous wine town of Rüdesheim in the scenic area of the Rhine River with old castles on both sides of its shore, a really historical place of Germany, from 23 October to 27 October 2005. The organizers have been Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hoelderich as chairman (from RWTH-Aachen, responsible for heterogeneous catalysis), Prof. Dr. Matthias Beller as co-chairman (University of Rostock, responsible for homogeneous catalysis) and Prof. Dr. Udo Kragl (University of Rostock, responsible for enzymatic catalysis). The conference was organized under the auspice of the German Catalysis Society (DECHEMA, Fachsektion Katalyse).

The general scope of CAFC 7 was the integration of heterogeneous, homogeneous and enzymatic catalysis in organic synthesis with emphasis on relevance to fine chemicals production. The symposium was aimed to stimulate interactions between academia and industry and researchers in these three sub-disciplines of catalysis. CAFC 7 was to contribute to the promotion of new concepts for the development of atom efficient catalytic methodologies for fine chemicals synthesis reflecting also the green chemistry aspect. The session topics reflected this general theme, placing emphasis on aspects that are common to all three areas of catalysis. At CAFC 7 the focus was on the production segments of fine chemicals in contrast to the former meetings in which the type of reactions involved have been of interest. Thus, the synthesis of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, fragrances, flavours, vitamins, chiral compounds and fine chemicals based on renewable resources have been considered applying heterogeneous, homogeneous and enzymatic catalysis. At the beginning of each session a plenary lecture gave an overview about the chemistry and the market. Afterwards experts from academia and industry presented new results of their research. The presentations have been very well selected and found the general interest of the participants.

The scientific programme comprised seven plenary lectures, which were delivered by C. Bolm, RWTH, Aachen, M. Eggerdorfer, DSM Nutritional Products, Basel, P. Gallezot, CNRS, Villeurbanne/Lyon, T. Riermeier, Degussa, Hanau, M. Scalone, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel, F. Spindler, Solvias, Basel, A. van der Weerd, Quest International, Ashford. In addition 32 oral presentations have been presented and 94 posters were shown in 2 poster sessions. The meeting started on Sunday evening with an

interesting introductory lecture presented by Dr. Ruff, Daimler Chrysler AG, Berlin with the topic Social Change and Innovation in the 21st "Century". In general the presented results had a high level of novelty and strong relation to practical applications.

The abstracts of the lectures and posters have been printed in the Symposium Book of Abstracts, which was handed over to the participants at the registration desk. Some of the contributions have been selected for publication in this Special Issue of Catalysis Today.

About 150 participants from all over the world attended the meeting; remarkable thereby was the high participation from East Asia. The attendees had also time and occasions to interact with colleagues, to have scientific discussions and to stimulate new cooperations. The conference venue was a good choice of the organizers.

The organizers express their sincere thanks to the companies which contributed with their generous donations to the success of the meeting and enabled strongly reduced registration fees for students. The contributors have been ARKEMA, France, BÖHRINGER-IGELHEIM, Germany, DEGUSSA AG, Germany, DSM Nutritional Products, Switzerland, DSM Pharmaceuticals, The Netherlands, JOHNSON-MATTHEY, UK, LANXESS, Germany, ROCHE Diagnostic, Switzerland/Germany, ROHM & HAAS, USA and last but not least SOLVIAS AG, Switzerland.

The 8th International Symposium on Catalysis Applied to Fine Chemicals (8th CAFC) will take place in Italy in 2007.

Acknowledgments

At the end I like to express my sincere thanks to all the colleagues and students who contributed with their presentations, posters and discussions to the success of the Bingen Meeting and also in particular to the DECHEMA team for the excellent and smoothly running organization. Thank you very much for your help.

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Available online 18 January 2007