

Preface

Recent advances in catalysis—selected papers from APCAT 4
(Singapore, 6–8 December 2006)

This special issue of Catalysis Today is a selection of papers presented at the Fourth Asia Pacific Congress on Catalysis at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore on 6–8 December 2006. The key objective of the APCAT 4 was to provide opportunities for academics, researchers and industrialists, particularly from the Asia Pacific region, to interact, exchange ideas, discuss current developments and chart possible collaborations. A diverse range of current topics in catalysis was covered in APCAT 4, such as novel materials, surface science, theoretical catalysis, catalysis for energy, fuel, environment, catalysis for pharmaceuticals, biocatalysis, reactor design, etc. Through this conference, the participants were updated with the latest fundamental development and technological trends in catalysis. The scientific program of the conference featured six excellent plenary lectures from Professors Alexis T. Bell, University of California, Berkeley, D. Wayne Goodman, Texas A&M University, Yasuhiro Iwasawa, The University of Tokyo, Can Li, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Science, Jens K. Nørskov, Technical University of Denmark, and Jackie Y. Ying, Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Singapore. In addition, there were 13 informative keynote lectures delivered by distinguished scientists in different areas of catalysis. During the 3-day meeting, 200 regular oral presentations and 250 posters were presented.

The current issue consisting of 79 articles is divided into four parts with their titles noted in the content lists – Part 1: Nanotechnology in catalysis; Part 2: Catalysis for energy, fuels, and environment; Part 3: Catalysis for fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals; Part 4: Catalytic reaction engineering. A general title was given for the special issue – recent advances in catalysis – selected papers from APCAT 4.

We would like to thank all participants and presenters who contributed to the success of the APCAT 4. Many thanks to those who submitted their work to this special issue. As we received many manuscripts, we regret that we were not able to consider all the manuscripts for further review. We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the referees who provided their thoughtful and timely comments. Our appreciation also

extends to the editors of the journal, Professors Julian Ross and Kazunari Domen for their great support.

Can Li

*State Key Laboratory of Catalysis,
Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics,
Chinese Academy of Sciences,
457 Zhongshan Road,
Dalian 116023, China*

Alexis T. Bell

*Department of Chemical Engineering,
University of California, Berkeley,
California 94720-1462, United States*

Yasuhiro Iwasawa

*Department of Chemistry,
Graduate School of Science,
The University of Tokyo, Hongo,
Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan*

Jacob Moulijn

*DelftChemTech/Industrial Catalysis,
Delft University of Technology, Julianalaan 136,
2628 BL Delft, The Netherlands*

Yuan Chen

Wai Man Lau

Kok Hwa Lim

Timothy Thatt Yang Tan

Xin Wang

Rong Xu*

Yanhui Yang

*School of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering,
Nanyang Technological University,
62 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 637459, Singapore*

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +65 67906713;

fax: +65 67947553

E-mail address: rxu@ntu.edu.sg (R. Xu)

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