



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Catalysis Today

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cattod

Preface

The 8th Europacat conference held in Turku, Finland during 26–31 August 2007 was a great success. The participation was good, and a large number of papers were submitted, resulting in an overall high quality of oral and poster presentations. This issue offers full papers based on presentations given in the session “Hydrogen Society”. The session included two excellent key-note lectures – presented by Volker Hessel and Lanny Schmidt – and attracted a large audience. All of this inspired Editor Julian Ross to suggest a special issue of Catalysis Today based on the session presentations, and as co-chair and member of the audience we could not have agreed more.

The session clearly demonstrated two things: Firstly, that catalytic reactions are essential to a wide range of topics and technologies that have to be resolved, developed or improved in order to make hydrogen and hydrogen technology available. Secondly, that the catalysis research community world wide works hard, and with realistic ideas, to resolve the technical and conceptual challenges introduced by the future Hydrogen Society.

The importance of catalysis for hydrogen production, be it from fossil hydrocarbons or biologically derived feed-stocks, is generally recognized. The same goes for hydrogen production by (PEM) electrolysis and correspondingly the electrochemical conversion in fuel cells. The importance of catalysis in hydrogen storage is however less recognized, at least outside the catalytic society. Kinetics, and hence catalysis, is closely related to the efficiency and

applicability of different storage solutions. We are glad to present interesting papers on hydrogen production, covering a wide range of basic and applied aspects of the catalysis and reaction engineering involved. We are equally happy to bring forward new and interesting approaches to hydrogen storage. Altogether 26 contributions cover this wide range of catalytic issues in hydrogen production, and storage.

We would like to thank the Europacat 8 organizers for putting on a successful event, and for assisting us in the initial phase of our work. We thank all contributors for their papers, timely submission and efficient revision. The reviewers are acknowledged for their effective, yet thorough, job. Finally Editor Julian Ross and Rosie Malone from Elsevier deserve praise for their support and help during the process.

Hilde J. Venvik*

Edd A. Blekkan

*Catalysis Group, Department of Chemical Engineering,
Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU),
7491 Trondheim, Norway*

*Corresponding author

E-mail address: venvik@chemeng.ntnu.no

(H.J. Venvik)