



Preface

Over the last decade, the concepts of sustainable chemistry and clean energy have impregnated our society. Catalysis is expected to be a chief player in the pursuit of products and processes compatible with the clean use and production of energy, in other words, with the sustainable development concept. Many forums where concepts such as clean energy, green chemistry or in general with sustainable development are available. However, we wanted to organize an event to serve as a platform where scientists, technologists, public institutions and private companies could meet and discuss about the role of Catalysis and Catalytic technologies within the sustainable development scenario.

With this aim, we and the other members of the organizing committee decided to organize the International Symposium on *Catalysis for Clean Energy and Sustainable Chemistry (CCESC)*. The occasion of the Symposium was not casual. In the summer of 2008 Prof. Jose L.G. Fierro turned 60. So we took the opportunity to celebrate his birthday along with some of his colleagues, most reputed scientists, arranging the CCESC. The Symposium was the perfect occasion to honor Prof. J.L.G. Fierro's and to recognize his outstanding scientific contribution in the field of catalysis for clean energy and sustainable chemistry. During his already highly successful and fruitful scientific career, which we hope will continue for many years to come, which is reflected in more than 800 papers in refereed journals, 150 contributions to symposia and 26 patents. Prof. J.L.G. Fierro has put a firm stamp on catalysis and functioned as an ambassador of the field toward the general science community.

During Prof. Jose L.G. Fierro's time of service on the staff at ICP-CSIC (where he earned the Ms. D and PhD degrees in Chemistry), his legion of devoted admirers at CSIC and elsewhere continues to grow. The large number of contributions to the Symposium and to this special issue of Catalysis Today reflects the many colleagues and friends that show appreciation for Prof. J.L.G. Fierro, both as a researcher and as a friend. In recognition of his professional accomplishments, interpersonal skills, and integrity, Prof. Jose L.G. Fierro was named as Vice-director of ICP-CSIC (and served in these

position from 1990 to 1996 and from 2005 to 2009) and Chair of Chemistry and Chemical Technology and member of the Scientific Committee Board of the CSIC (1996–2002). He has received the award on Research of Renewable Energies (CajaEspana, 2004), Award to innovative patent in Comunidad de Madrid (2007), Senior Research Award "Miguel Catalan" (Comunidad de Madrid 2008), Senior Research Award of the Iberoamerican Federation of Catalysis Societies (2008) and recently awarded with the "Doctor Honoris Causa" from the University of Patras (Greece).

This issue of Catalysis Today entitled "International Symposium on Catalysis for Clean Energy and Sustainable Chemistry, on occasion of the 60th birthday of Prof. Jose L.G. Fierro" comprises a collection of selected papers presented at the symposium. The selection of the manuscript is aimed to cover important issues in the use of catalytic technologies for the production of clean energy and new chemical processes.

We would like to thank all of the authors for their collaboration and efforts to achieve this outstanding collection of manuscripts. Finally, our gratitude is extended to Catalysis Today Editors, and Elsevier is also gratefully acknowledged for their efficient handling of the manuscripts.

PS. We regret very much the recent pass away of Prof. A. Parmaliana, who wanted to share his friendship with us and Prof. Fierro during this symposium, Requiescat In Pace.

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