



Preface

International Symposium on Advances in Hydroprocessing of Oil Fractions (ISAHOF 2009)

2009 was not an easy year, not only for Mexicans but also for people all over the world. What started with a few cases of a new kind of flu, suddenly grew up exponentially becoming a threat for the entire humanity: the A1H1 influenza. Traveling to Mexico was announced by several countries to be quite dangerous. This affected in great extent the decision of people to attend ISAHOF 2009. Once the A1H1 influenza was communicated to the world by the Mexican authorities that it had become a problem, the organizing committee had to make a big decision: continue or cancel the congress. It was decided to continue with ISAHOF 2009. This was announced on the congress web site and by email to all attendees, and news about the advances in controlling the influenza was also provided and updated almost everyday. Although some countries still had prohibited their citizens to travel to Mexico, our invited lecturers, with a very brave and professional attitude, decided to attend ISAHOF. We would like first to thank our invited speakers for supporting the congress with this decision. Closer to the congress date, most of the people also made the decision to attend.

We wanted to share the above, just to show the readers that no matter what happened in that time regarding the influenza, what was more important was to be part of a forum in which worldwide representatives of academia, industry and research centers, working in the field of hydroprocessing exchanged ideas and presented new developments.

ISAHOF 2009 was organized in the City of Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico during June 14–18, 2009. Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is located in the State of Guerrero, Mexico on the Pacific Coast in the area known as the Mexican Riviera or Costa Grande. Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo offers a diverse tourist entertainment combining pleasure with the traditions of a typical Mexican town. While Zihuatanejo, which means Women Place, keeps the typical fishermen town flavor, Ixtapa (White Place) is a modern planned tourist complex. Despite their differences, they have in common 15 miles of golden coast shaped by coves, hidden behind exuberant green hills, which follow the coasts curve.

More than one hundred people who came from different countries attended ISAHOF 2009. During the congress, the following main topics, all related to hydroprocessing, were covered in the various oral and poster sessions: fundamentals, new preparations and new active materials, synthesis and characterization of catalysts, characterization of catalyst in its working state, catalyst deactivation, heavy oils hydroprocessing, reaction kinetics, reactor modeling, reactor design, control and optimization, novel reactors and process developments, new findings in

hydroprocessing reaction mechanism, computational chemistry, molecular dynamics and molecular engineering, industrial process aspects.

The following plenary lectures were given by world authorities in the field:

- Gilbert F. Froment, Texas A&M University, USA, Kinetic Modelling of Hydrotreatment.
- Teh C. Ho, ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Co., USA, Hydroprocessing Catalysts and Kinetics.
- Roel Prins, Institute for Chemical and Bioengineering, Switzerland, Hydrodesulfurization with Classic Ni–MoS₂/Al₂O₃ and New Pt–Pd on Mesoporous Zeolite Catalysts.
- Hiromichi Shimada, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Japan, From Heavy Oil to Ultra Clean Fuel—A Demand from the Society.
- Luis M. Rodríguez, PEMEX-Refinación, Mexico, Recent and Future Commercial Strategies for Producing Clean Fuels in Mexican Refineries.
- Clementina Lopez-Garcia, IFP-Lyon, France, Detailed Kinetic and Reactor Modeling of Hydrotreating of Petroleum Fractions.

The present issue is a compilation of twenty-six selected full manuscripts which deal with different aspects of hydroprocessing. Some manuscripts focused on other important petroleum refining processes were also included. The guest editors would like to acknowledge all the contributors and referees who carefully reviewed the manuscripts.

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