



## Preface

## Catalysis by acids and bases: New materials and surface studies ABC-6, 6th World Congress on Catalysis by Acids and Bases, Genova (Italy), May 10–14, 2009

The 6th World Congress on Catalysis by Acids and Bases (ABC-6) took place in Genova, Italy, during May 10–14, 2009. The scientific activities were held at the Magazzini del Cotone Congress Center in the Porto Antico area (the Cristoforo Colombo-age ancient harbour), in Genova downtown. ABC-6 followed the pioneering Congress on Catalysis by Acids and Bases, held in Lyon (F) in the 1984, and the previous series ABC-I to ABC-V held respectively in Sapporo (Japan, 1988 and 1993), Rolduc (NL, 1998), Matsuyama (Japan, 2001) and in Puerto Vallarta (Mexico, 2005). In the meeting of the ABC board, held during the Congress, it has been decided that the next event of the series will be in Asia, in the 2013, very probably organized again by Japan.

Aim of ABC-6 Congress was to give an update overview of the different aspects (synthesis, characterization and applications) of the acid-base catalysis. At the congress, organized in 8 topical sessions, attended more than 200 participants, coming from 28 countries, with 5 plenary and 9 keynote lectures, 80 oral communications and 2 poster sessions, with a total of 117 poster communications. During the ABC-6 congress the Tanabe Prize, sponsored by Exxonmobil, has been awarded to Prof. Enrique Iglesia, from the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University of California (Berkeley, USA).

In this special issue of *Catalysis Today* 20 papers, corresponding to works presented at the congress as oral communications or keynotes, are collected, evidencing new aspects of materials sci-

ence of acid and basic solid catalysts. All manuscripts have been reviewed by at least two experts and revised thoroughly by the authors. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the Peers that performed the review of the papers. Although this is only a partial summary of the excellent scientific work presented at the congress, with a deep discussion of the many subjects under study, we hope that it may contribute to a further development of catalysis as a scientific discipline. The appreciation by the readers will be the best awards for the efforts and time expended.

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