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Catalysis Today

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

Preface

The main objective of the COST Action D36 “*Molecular structure–performance relationships at the surface of functional materials*” is to increase the fundamental knowledge about the chemistry occurring at surfaces and interfaces, and of the factors that tune it. This is the second special issue of Catalysis Today devoted to a COST D36 Action workshop. The first, volume 139 (3) (30 December 2008), reflected the first workshop, held in Espoo, Finland, 1–2 September 2007.

This special issue includes selected contributions presented during the 3rd D36 Action Workshop, which took place in Benahavís, Spain, from October 21st to 23rd, 2009, with more than 100 participants. The papers focus on various aspects of the chemistry research covered by the Action, such as characterization and catalytic behaviour of mesoporous solids, catalysts for partial oxidation reactions, photocatalysis, processes involving glycerol as starting molecule, biodiesel preparation, characterization and catalytic activity of carbon materials, catalysts for HDS and NO_x reduction reactions, electrocatalysts, applications of surfactants,

adsorption on materials surfaces and operando spectroscopic characterization of catalysts.

The support of Universidad de Málaga, Junta de Andalucía and PID Eng&Tech are gratefully appreciated, and also the help and cooperation of Benahavís and Ronda Town Halls. In addition, we would like to take advantage of these lines to thank the support by the COST office and by the Local Committee, which have made a big effort to make this workshop possible.

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Available online 16 September 2010