

Valerii Vasil'evich Lunin (To His 70th Birthday)

DOI: 10.1134/S0023158410020230

On January 31, 2010, Valerii Vasil'evich Lunin, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry of Moscow State University, a member of the editorial board of the journal *Kinetika i Kataliz* (Kinetics and Catalysis) celebrated his 70th birthday.

Lunin is a prominent scientist in the field of heterogeneous catalysis and the physical chemistry of the surface and a talented pedagogue and science and education manager. His fundamental studies of the physicochemical and catalytic properties of new catalysts based on intermetallides and their hydrides have gained wide recognition in Russia and abroad. He has discovered and investigated the phenomenon of the acceleration of structural and phase transitions in polymetallic systems under the action of hydrogen and hydride phases. The team guided by Lunin has designed radically new catalysts for various reactions of industrial organic synthesis, petroleum chemistry, petroleum refining, and environmental protection, including deep processing of heavy oil residues, methanol and higher alcohol synthesis from CO and H₂, and processes involved in water and atmosphere protection and in decomposition and utilization of chlorine-containing organic waste. In collaboration with the Boreskov Institute of Catalysis and the Institute of the Nitrogen Industry and Products of Organic Synthesis, he has created a novel, platinum-free, heterogeneous catalyst for ammonia oxidation.

Lunin and his colleagues have performed a series of studies on the effect of unconventional kinds of energy on the physicochemical and catalytic properties of solids, and these studies have attracted keen interest from both theoreticians and practitioners. His current interests are nanomaterial synthesis in supercritical media and ozone chemistry, including use of ozone in wastewater treatment, in heterogeneous catalytic processes, and in the delignification of lignin-containing materials. He has designed and commercialized a new, moisture-resistant catalyst for decomposition and removal of residual amounts of ozone.

The research carried out by Lunin has been highly appreciated by the chemical communities in Russia and other countries. His studies were awarded by prizes



from the government of the Russian Federation and from the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

As Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry of Moscow State University, Lunin spends much time and energy on education. He has created an active scientific school. He has been the supervisor of 7 doctors of sciences and over 60 candidates of sciences. The Faculty of Chemistry of Moscow State University has created a system of selecting the most gifted school leavers from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States and is now refitting its training laboratories with up-to-date research equipment. Lunin is a regular lecturer at the Faculty of Chemistry and often delivers lectures at universities of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, France, and China. He is the author of

a number of textbooks and learning aids for higher education institutions and secondary school.

Lunin is the author of more than 800 publications, including several monographs and 70 inventor's certificates and patents. He was awarded Grand Prix by MAIK Nauka/Interperiodica for the best publication in *Kinetika i Kataliz* in 2001.

Lunin is a very active science manager: he is the head or a member of several scientific councils, Editor-in-Chief or an editorial board member in a number of journals on physical chemistry, Deputy Academic Secretary of the Division of General and Tech-

nical Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences, a member of several scientific councils at the Russian Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Higher Attestation Commission.

Valerii Vasil'evich Lunin is full of creative ideas and energy and continues his active and fruitful work in science.

The editorial board of *Kinetika i Kataliz* congratulates Valerii Vasil'evich Lunin sincerely on the occasion of his jubilee and wishes him good health and further success in his creative work.