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Proceedings of the First Conference of the Indo-Pacific Catalysis Association (IPCAT1), Cape Town, South Africa, 25–28 January 1998

Guest Editor

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Preface

This issue of *Catalysis Today* contains the Proceedings of the first Conference of the Indo-Pacific Catalysis Association (IPCAT1) which was held from 25 to 28 January 1998 at Cape Town, South Africa. The Indo-Pacific Catalysis Association was founded during the International Congress on Catalysis in Baltimore 1996. The underlying concept for the formation of the Indo-Pacific Catalysis Association (IPCAT) was to provide an opportunity for the catalysis researchers and industrialists from smaller countries in the Indo-Pacific region to meet, discuss and exchange ideas with each other in the area of catalysis and catalytic processing. Although many of these countries have their own national catalysis meetings, it is often difficult to attract a significant number of international delegates which would help to give any conference an added beneficial dimension.

The first conference was set-up to give an overview of all research activities in the areas of catalysis and catalytic processing in the Indo-Pacific region.

Internationally renowned researchers were also invited to the conference to give overviews of the various areas of catalysis and catalytic processing. The large attendance of so many eminent catalysis personalities so far from the epicentre of catalysis research was greatly appreciated by the Organizing Committee. The conference was attended by 175 delegates mainly from South Africa, India, Australia, Taiwan, and Singapore, with invited guests from rest of the world. A large number of contributions came from research organizations and industry.

This issue of *Catalysis Today* is organized according to the various categories into which catalysis and catalytic processing can be subdivided, i.e. catalysis by metals, by metal sulphides, metal oxides, molecular sieves, layered materials and resins.

The objective of the conference to stimulate discussion and cooperation between the members of the Indo-Pacific Catalysis Association was certainly met. We are therefore looking forward to the Second Conference of the Indo-Pacific Catalysis Association (IPCAT2) in 2001 in Pune, India.