

Preface

This issue, VOC Control and Catalytic Combustion, is one of the four issues that consists of papers presented at the 2nd World Congress of Environmental Catalysis, co-sponsored by AIChE, at Miami, Florida, in November 1998. The congress focused on catalysis for environmental applications. It was organized by John Armor, of Air Products, Umit Ozkan, of Ohio State University, and Ron Heck, from Engelhard.

Research topics presented in the issue include twelve papers on VOC catalytic oxidation, five on photocatalysis for VOC destruction in aqueous solution, and two papers on catalytic combustion of methane and alternative fuels. Although VOC control has been the focus of environmental research attention during the last few decades, further development to minimize by-product formation and to optimize destruction efficiency under various industrial conditions or waste environment is needed. Catalytic combustion of natural gas is, of course, a likely candidate to reduce the emission of gas turbines for power

generation, and it provides an element of flexibility to control combustion. The challenge, however, lies in the stability of the catalysts, combined with the design of the catalytic combustor.

With this issue, we hope to stimulate researchers in the area to look into both fundamental and applied issues on catalyst development to tackle environmental problems.

We appreciate the efforts from both reviewers and authors that ensure the technical clarity and quality of the papers. We trust, you will enjoy reading the issue and find the papers informative to tackle environmental problems with catalysis technology.

Ben W.-L. Jang, Ramesh Subramanian,
James J. Spivey
*Research Triangle Institute, Center for
Engineering and Environmental Technology,
Research Triangle Park, NC, USA*