

Preface

The 3rd Asia-Pacific Congress on Catalysis (APCAT3) was held on 12–15 October 2003 in Dalian, China. About 600 extended abstracts from 27 countries and regions were received, and about 550 participants attended the congress. Both the numbers of the submitted abstracts and the participants of this congress were larger than previous congresses, indicating not only active participation but also the fast growth of catalysis research in the Asian-Pacific area. Five invited plenary lectures, 14 keynote lectures, 85 oral presentations and 350 posters were presented during the congress. The congress successfully achieved its purpose of stimulating the interaction and the exchange of ideas, and promoting the research activity and collaboration, not only in the Asia-Pacific area but also in the world.

In order to commemorate this fruitful academic event, the organization committee decided to publish a special issue of *Catalysis Today*. The special issue is a collection of the 128 contributions covering the currently active topics and the most concerned issues in catalysis, such as environmental catalysis, energy-related catalysis, catalytic materials, in situ characterization, catalysis for fine chemicals, photocatalysis, and so on. Since the scope of the congress was too broad to be included in a single thematic issue in *Catalysis Today*, a general title of the special issue was chose—*A selection from the Presentations at the 3rd Asia-Pacific Congress on Catalysis*. For clarity, sub-titles were noted in the contents list, such as general catalysis, materials for catalysis, environmental catalysis and liquid phase reaction.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all participants who contributed to the success of the APCAT3. We owe much to the referees who reviewed the manuscripts and provided their critical and timely evaluations. Our appreciation further extends to all the authors who made great efforts in preparing and revising their manuscripts to reach high quality.

It is our hope that this special issue will provide the readers with state-of-the-art catalysis science and technology in the Asian-Pacific area.

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