

Foreword

The First Ibero-American Symposium of Catalysis (SICAT) was held in Madrid in 1968 and since then a similar meeting has been organized regularly every two years in different countries of Europe (Spain and Portugal) and Latin America. In 2004, the XIX SICAT was held in Mexico (Mérida, Yucatan). This was a successful meeting where about 450 scientists from 14 countries of Ibero-America and elsewhere participated and presented 180 oral talks and 420 posters, which were selected by a scientific committee. Several international companies sponsored and participated in a Technological Forum, organized in parallel with the scientific program. The scope of the XIX SICAT emphasized two important aspects, the scientific one through the plenary lectures and invited conferences, which were delivered by known leaders in the field, as well as by the authors of selected talks who addressed diverse recent research topics. The second aspect comprised a Technological Forum and a Round Table which were focused on the problems related to the industrial use of catalysts and their impact in society. The following research topics were covered in the scope of the symposium: Combinatorial Catalysis, Computational Catalysis, Catalysts Design by Nanotechnology, Enzymatic Catalysis, Fine Chemistry, Catalyst Preparation and Characterization, Catalysts for Refining and Petrochemistry, Environmental Catalysis, Photocatalysis, Polymerization, Fuels and Energy for the Future and General Catalysis.

This special issue presents the contributions selected from 199 original manuscripts submitted for evaluation (Fig. 1). This effort involved the participation of about 500 referees from all around the world (Fig. 2). At the end of this process 130 contributions were accepted for publication (65.6%) based on the quality and scientific relevance criteria of the journal.

At this point the Guest Editors acknowledge the reviewers who contributed greatly to the accomplishment of this issue and in particular to David Lopez, who managed all the information and communication aspects.

The high quality of the contributions presented in the present volume is a living testimony of what is going on in Ibero-America in the diverse branches of catalysis (Fig. 1). A statistics of the participants is shown in Fig. 1, where one can observe the number of contributions submitted to this issue from 14 countries, giving testimony of a sound interest and maturity of the region in both catalysis science and technology.

Finally, we acknowledge the support of several institutions involved in education and scientific research: IMP, UNAM, UAM, IPN, ITCM, CIMAV, CONACYT, CYTED, AMC, as well as industrial companies like Exxon-Mobil, Haldor-Topsoe, Criterion, Katalauna (CRI), Pemex, Petrobras, Albemarle, Oxiteno, Intercat, Pona and Valley Research, for supporting the technological Forum and other activities of the XIX SICAT. In particular, we acknowledge the Mexican Academy of Catalysis (ACAT) who was supportive in many ways throughout the event. Finally, we thank and appreciate the aid from the local government of the State of Yucatan in Mexico.

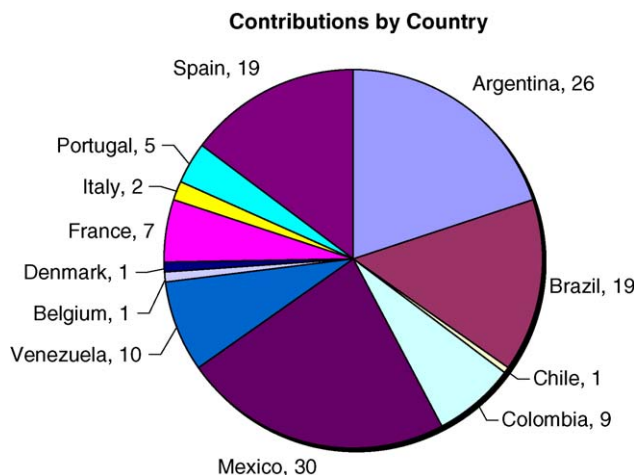


Fig. 1. Distribution of articles contributing to the special volume of *Catalysis Today*.

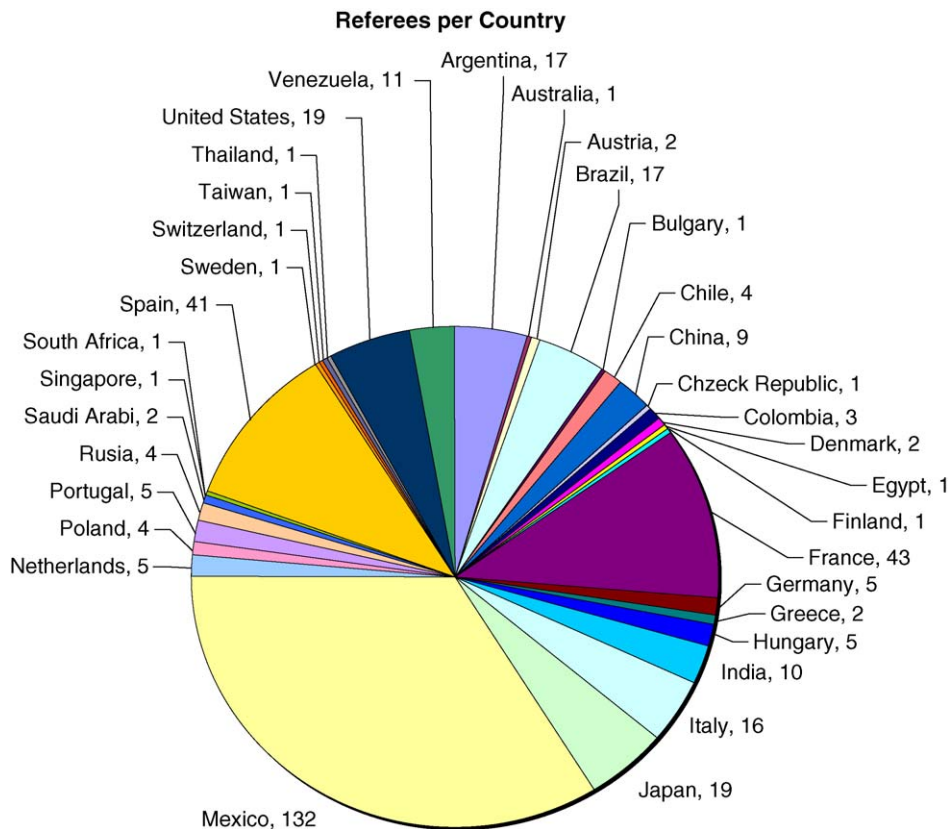


Fig. 2. Distribution of the referees (per country) who participated in the evaluation process.

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Available online 12 September 2005