

Preface

After the 4th International Congress on Catalysis which took place in Moscow in 1968 several Ibero-American researchers gathered together in Madrid, Spain, and had the opportunity to discuss about research, projects and common aspirations. This meeting is nowadays considered the first Ibero-American Symposium of Catalysis and it was considered the constitution of the Ibero-American Society of Catalysis with Gojko Kremenec as its first President chosen.

Following this meeting, the idea of Ibero-American Symposium of Catalysis was continued and each two years SICAT were organized within different Ibero-American countries taking place in Spain (1968, 1982, 1992), Argentina (1970, 1980, 1996), Venezuela (1976, 1982, 2002), Mexico (1974, 1988, 2004), Portugal (1976, 1984, 2000), Brazil (1978, 1990, 2006), Chile (1994) and Colombia (1998).

The XXth Ibero-American Symposium of Catalysis took place in Gramado, Brazil, from 17th to 22nd September 2006 and was promoted by the Iberoamerican Federation of Catalysis and organized under the auspices of the Brazilian Society Catalysis (SBCat). The meeting was a huge success not only by the number of attendees (more than 600) but also for the quality of the contributions (more than 700) and presentations. Worth mentioning is the fact that among the audience there participants from Finland, France, England and Czech Republic. Besides the technical presentations, the meeting also catalyzed the formation of some collaboration networks between Universities, Research Centers and Companies.

Twelve invited plenary lecturers presented the participants with high level conferences in several fields of catalysis which allowed the participants to become familiar with some state of the art researches going on not only in Ibero-America but in other parts of the world. The invited plenary speakers were Alexis T. Bell (University of California, Berkeley, USA), Carmen Claver (Universidad Rovira I Virgili, Tarragona, Spain), Carlos Gigola (Planta Piloto de Ingeniería Química, Bahía Blanca, Argentina), Hans-Joachim Freund (Fritz-Haber- Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin, Germany), Jean-Alan Dalmon (Institut de Recherches sur la Catalyse, Villeurbanne, France), Johan Martens (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium), John Gladysz (Friedrich Alexander Universität Erlangen, Germany), Luiz Oro (Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain), Mireya Goldwasser (Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela), Paul

Ratnasamy (National Chemistry Laboratory, Pune, India), Tobin Marks (Northwestern University, Evanston, EUA) and Victor Teixeira da Silva (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

This special issue of Catalysis Today brings together selected contributions from the XXth Iberoamerican Symposium of Catalysis which is representative of the quality and level of the catalysis work which is being done throughout Ibero-American countries. More than 400 contributions were submitted for this special issue and after a rigorous evaluation process which consisted in having each paper evaluated by two different referees, a total of 136 papers were selected. Noteworthy is the detail that ninety percent of the selected referees are not from Ibero-American countries which if from one side made the whole evaluation process slower, from the other guarantees the straightness of the process. The Ibero-American community and the Guest Editors have a profound debt of gratitude to all *ad-hoc* referees which helped to guarantee the quality of the selected papers and therefore to put together this special edition.

Several other people besides the referees were involved and to them the Guest Editors are truly thankful. Very special thanks go to Prof. Julian Ross for his support, help and guidance throughout the whole process. Last, but not least, our gratitude extends to Rosie Malone and Dylan Parker from Elsevier for their professionalism, help and support.

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