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Preface

The First International Symposium on New Catalytic Materials (NCM-1) was held in Cancun, Mexico in August 20–21, 2008, within the XVII International Congress on Materials Research organized by The Sociedad Mexicana de Materiales (SMM) and The Materials Research Society (MRS), with about 100 scientists from various countries, who presented about 40 oral talks and 76 posters. The scope of this symposium emphasized the importance of catalysts to conduct chemical reactions and processes at both the laboratory and industrial scale, which was well exposed in seven invited lectures and regular conferences that were delivered by well known leaders in the field, as well as by authors who addressed relevant research topics, focusing on actual challenges in the use of industrial catalysts for refining and petrochemical processes and their impact on the environment, other presentations focused on new catalysts for carrying out chemical transformation of renewable resources for bio-fuels and hydrogen production, photocatalysis and liquid fuels from synthesis gas.

The character of this special issue was given by the interest of the scientific community on new materials for improving the catalysts performance and for obtaining newer catalytic systems. Nowadays, the exploding diversity of new materials has opened a new technological perspective in general and it is an exciting subject of research and discovery in catalysis. Simultaneously, more sophisticated methods that are usually involved in the characterization and properties of new catalytic materials are driving factors for developing new insights for research on new catalytic materials, which demands maturity and novelty in the search of new scientific and technological issues.

In this context, this special issue presents the most outstanding contributions that were selected after a peer-reviewing process of about 55 manuscripts, which involved 130 international referees; from those 31 papers were accepted for publication (56.36%) based on its scientific quality and novelty. In this respect, the Guest Editors acknowledge all the reviewers who contributed greatly to the accomplishment of this endeavor, particularly to Professor James J. Spivey who was constantly guiding the process of evaluation and to Rosie Malone, from Elsevier Staff, who managed efficiently the complex communication aspects. Finally, we acknowledge the financial support of several Mexican institutions and companies involved in different aspects of the symposium. Our special thanks are given to the National University of Mexico (UNAM), The National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), The Mexican Petroleum Institute (IMP), CONACYT, The Mexican Society of Materials (SMM), Instituto de Ciencias y Tecnología de Distrito Federal (ICyT), Anton Paar de Mexico and the Academia de Catálisis (ACAT).

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