



Editorial

**ABC-6, 6th World Congress on Catalysis by Acids and Bases, Genova, Italy,
May 10–14, 2009**

The 6th World Congress on Catalysis by Acids and Bases, ABC-6, took place in Genova, Italy, during May 10–14, 2009.

The scientific activities of the congress were held at the Magazzini del Cotone Congress Center in the Porto Antico area (the Cristoforo Colombo-age ancient harbour) in downtown Genova. Plenary and parallel sessions were held in the Scirocco-Libeccio twin rooms. More than 200 people from 28 countries attended the congress, with 5 plenary lectures, 9 keynote lectures, 80 oral communications, and two poster sessions with a total of 117 poster communications. The congress was organized in eight different topical sessions. All aspects of acid and base catalysis were discussed.

The congress followed a previous congress on Catalysis by Acids and Bases held in Lyon, France, in 1984, and the series of ABC-I to ABC-V congresses held in Sapporo, Japan, in 1988 and in 1993, in Rolduc, near Aachen, at the border between Netherlands and Germany in 1998, in Matsuyama, Japan, in 2001 and in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in 2005.

In the meeting that the ABC board held in Genova during the congress, it was decided that the next ABC congress will be held in Asia, in 2013. The most likely organizing country will be Japan.

During the ABC-6 congress the Tanabe Prize, sponsored by ExxonMobil, has been awarded to Prof. Enrique Iglesia, from the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of California at Berkeley, USA.

This issue of Chemical Engineering Journal reports 15 selected papers presented at the congress as oral communications and key notes. They deal with new aspects of acid and basic solid catalysis. Among others, they deal with renewables and green chemistry and show their contemporary relevance. All manuscripts have been reviewed by at least two experts. We acknowledge our colleagues that performed the review of the papers. Although this represents only a partial summary of the excellent scientific work presented at the congress, we are confident that it contributes to the further development of catalysis as a scientific discipline.

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