



Preface

The chemical industry is currently experiencing newer challenges driven by eco-economical mandate to meet global competition. Exploring newer avenues by transcending the traditional disciplinary barriers is the main objective of scientists working in the area of catalysis. With their intent and lateral thinking and cross-disciplinary vision of catalysis, the participants of the First Indo-German Conference and 16th National Symposium on Catalysis held at Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, India during 6–8 February 2003, have set a unique new task for themselves.

The growing challenges in catalysis for achieving a high degree of eco-compatibility is reviewed. Nanotechnology, surface modification, molecular and process modeling, safer reactor design, augmentation of catalytic reaction through microwave irradiation, phase transfer catalysis, bestowing multifunctionality and chirality and tailoring reaction media are also discussed. These presentations are brought out in

this special issue of *Journal of Molecular Catalysis* entitled “*Catalysis—A Cross Disciplinary Vision*”.

I thank M/s. Elsevier Publishers for accepting to publish the work. Thanks are due to Dr. P.S. Sai Prasad, Dr. N. Lingaiah, Dr. K.S. Rama Rao, and Dr. P. Kanta Rao, Scientists of IICT, Hyderabad, India for their help in assisting editorial work and my thanks are also due to Mr. A.V. Srihari for extending secretarial work. I gratefully acknowledge all the authors for their valuable contributions.

B.M. Choudhary (Guest Editor)
Inorganic & Physical Chemistry Division
Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT)
Hyderabad 500007, India
Tel.: +91 40 27193510; fax: +91 40 27160921
E-mail address: choudary@iict.res.in

Available online 25 September 2004