Preface

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The Catalysis Society of Japan has celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008 by the several events. The International Symposium on “Creation and Control of Advanced Selective Catalysis” held in Kyoto on 8–12 July, 2008 was the greatest event among them. The symposium consisted of five topics; fundamentals and theory for selective catalysis, in situ characterization of selective catalysis, new selective catalysis for green processes, new catalytic materials for selective reactions, and innovative processes by selective catalysts. World’s leading scientists in different catalysis fields have brought together to share their experiences and solutions to innovation in catalysis. The special issues of this *Topics in Catalysis* and *Angewandte Chemie*, vol. 47/48 (2008) are focused on their contributions.

The role of catalysis for energy saving and environmental protection has become more important than ever.

That is, “Catalysis” is a key science and technology in exploiting new feedstocks, producing high performance materials and molecules, and creating environmentally benign processes. The symposium reflected the variety of approaches dealing with these issues. The main focus has been on heterogeneous catalysis but some presentations on homogeneous catalysis were also given. The executive organizing committee chaired by professor Iwasawa appreciate the support by Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan Society for the Promotion Science (JSPS), The Chemical Society of Japan, Science Council of Japan, and Commemorative Organization for the Japan World Exposition ‘70.

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