Preface

Shinichi Nakata · Sumio Kato · Masayuki Shirai ·
Atsushi Muramatsu

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This special issue of *Topics in Catalysis* is devoted to the selected papers presented at the *12th Japan–Korea Symposium on Catalysis (12th JKSC)* organized by the Catalysis Society of Japan and held October 14–16, 2009, in Akita, Japan. In the symposium, the main session had two plenary and four keynote lectures, and 46 general oral and 101 general poster presentations. They were made along with a separate young scientist session comprised of two plenary lectures, 32 young oral and 37 young poster presentations. The number of participants from both countries totaled almost 300. Multidisciplinary presentations covered research in catalysis by mesoporous materials, oxidation, solid acid/base catalysis, photo-catalysis, fuel cell, energy, environmental catalysis and organic synthesis.

The symposium has been held every two years to exchange novel ideas in the field of catalysis. The first Symposium was held in 1987 in Seoul. Subsequently, in Tokyo (1989), in Seoul (1991), in Tokyo (1993), in Taejon (1995), in Fukuoka (1997), in Kwangju (1999), in Osaka

(2001), in Pohang (2003), in Matsue (2005), and in Seoul (2007). This traditional symposium has extensively and deeply promoted cooperative relations among scientists and engineers in Japan and Korea. The number of the presentations and participants have gradually increased over the years.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Japanese Petroleum Institute and other associations for helping organize the symposium. In particular, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Akita University and other institutions for their financial support in managing the symposium. We would like to acknowledge Dr. Dong Jin Suh, Korea Institute of Science and Technology, for his great efforts coordinating this event. We are grateful to the secretarial staffs and the members of the organizing committee for their enthusiastic efforts for the organization of the 12th JKSC. We wish to express our appreciation to Prof. Young Gun Shul, Yonsei University for advising on the symposium. Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all the participants for joining us in Akita.

S. Nakata (✉) · S. Kato
Akita University, Akita City, Japan
e-mail: snakata@ipc.akita-u.ac.jp

S. Kato
e-mail: s_kato@ipc.akita-u.ac.jp

M. Shirai
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science
and Technology (AIST), Tsukuba, Japan
e-mail: m.shirai@aist.go.jp

A. Muramatsu
Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan
e-mail: mura@tagen.tohoku.ac.jp