



CATALYSIS IN ROUMANIA 2011

Catalysis is a mature science that found an impressive evolution in the last century. Starting with petrochemistry it extended the field of investigation to organic chemistry where made major achievements in synthesis of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and various intermediates. More recently it was closely associated to the concept of green chemistry and today is considered the main tool to valorize biomass with the aim to produce biofuels and new chemicals. Catalysis is also one of most awarded chemical disciplines. Since 1909 when Ostwald received the Nobel prize “in recognition of his work on catalysis...” there are numerous other examples associated to the different parts of catalysis.

Catalysis is the closer chemical science to practice. In a world where the emphasis has shifted to being as green and environmentally friendly as possible, the catalytic processes represent over 80% from the total technologies in industry.

Catalysis was introduced in Roumania 63 years ago by Prof. I. V. Nicolescu. Prof. I.V. Nicolescu was also initiated the series of Catalysis Symposia 38 years ago.

The Symposium of Roumanian Catalysis Society continues the mandate initiated by Prof. I. V. Nicolescu and serve as a platform to exchange ideas and to discuss new developments in all areas of catalysis every three years. With this occasion well recognized scientists are invited to deliver plenary lectures and to discuss their last achievements with colleagues from Roumania and everywhere. Roumanian scientists are also participating to this symposium with oral presentations.

When Prof. I. V. Nicolescu introduced catalysis in Roumania the industry was very primitive and no catalytic process was applied at that time. However, the school developed by him convinced the practice on the importance of this domain, and in 1989, namely the year Prof. I.V. Nicolescu past away, Roumania had plenty of catalytic applications, most of them in petrochemistry, and two companies producing catalysts. Now we are almost in the same situation as before the Second World War. The chemical industry was closed without real reasons and the resources of the country claim a new start of the domain. In spite of this situation, we are very glad to constate the level reached by the Roumanian expertize in catalysis and diversity of the thematics.

With this message in mind, the Symposium of Roumanian Catalysis Society is also a school for the young students, PhD or Postdocs who were invited to deliver oral presentations and to present posters. Special discussions intending to establish the relation between the fundamental aspects of catalysis and catalytic applications were devoted to them.

Roumanian Catalysis Society together with the Roumanian chemists celebrate in 2011 the Year of Chemistry. This issue is also a tribute to this event presenting the recent development of catalysis in Roumania. This special issue represents a collection of selected contributions presented in the Symposium. Most of these contributions were delivered by roumanian and foreign young students.

Roumanian Catalysis Society addresses special thanks to the Editor-in-Chief of *Revue Roumaine de Chimie*, Acad. Marius Andruh, who accepted this special issue. We are convinced that the selected papers that were evaluated in addition following the typical peer review system of the journal will encourage the contributors to re-establish the role of chemistry in Roumania.

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President of Roumanian Catalysis Society

