Editorial

Davide Ferri

Lioubov Kiwi-Minsker

Jeroen A. van Bokhoven

Javier Pérez-Ramírez

In the recent past, heterogeneous catalysis has received a great deal of attention in Switzerland both at academic and industrial level. Recently, new internationally recognized faces have appeared in the Swiss catalysis scene and the academic heterogeneous catalysis panorama has experienced expansion. Until today there had never been so many catalysis research groups in Switzerland. Moreover, there is the awareness that other actors from the fields of materials science, physical chemistry and theory can actively contribute to promote the development of heterogeneous catalysis in both fundamental and technological arenas.

On June 16-17th 2011, 62 scientists from several Swiss Institutes convened to the 1st Swiss Heterogeneous Catalysis Meeting held in Grindelwald under the dramatic north face of Mount Eiger. The meeting included 19 oral communications and 25 posters and was accompanied by two plenaries delivered by Prof. ***B. M. Weckhuysen*** (University of Utrecht) and Prof. ***C. Hardacre*** (Queen's University of Belfast).

The 1st Swiss Heterogeneous Catalysis Meeting has pioneered a series of initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness of heterogeneous catalysis at a national level. The meeting is followed by this special issue of CHIMIA and will be integrated by the new session on Catalysis Science and Engineering at the SCS Fall Meeting and by the Spring Meeting of the SCS in 2013 that will be dedicated to catalysis in its broader dimension.

Catalysis is a multidisciplinary discipline transversal to various chemical, physical and engineering disciplines. It is extensively used in industry for the sustainable manufacture of goods ranging from fuels to pharmaceuticals, to perfumes and aromas, from paints to bio-products and to plastics. Many of these industries are strongly represented in Switzerland.

In this issue of CHIMIA dedicated to heterogeneous catalysis in Switzerland various contributions of some of the active actors and participants to the 1st Swiss Heterogeneous Catalysis Meeting celebrate aspects such as mechanisms and kinetics, advanced materials, state-of-the-art characterization tools and computational methods, reactor and process design. During the meeting there were lively discussions among the participants on these subjects. The meeting was interdisciplinary and we hope that the contributions of this issue will provide the reader with an up-to-date review of the developments in the field of heterogeneous catalysis.

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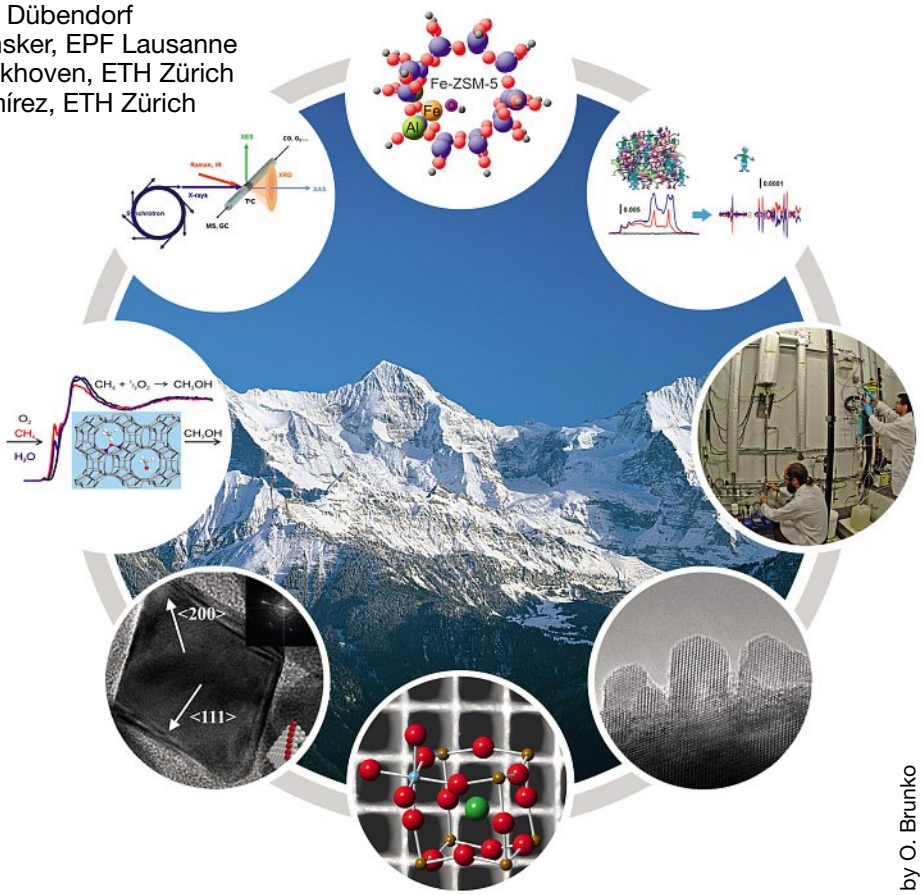
Dr. Davide Ferri, Empa Dübendorf
Prof. Lioubov Kiwi-Minsker, EPF Lausanne
Prof. Jeroen A. van Bokhoven, ETH Zürich
Prof. Javier Pérez-Ramírez, ETH Zürich



by O. Brunko