

Preface for the Special Column of the INRET 2006

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the editorial board of Journal of Natural Gas Chemistry for allowing me to write a preface for this special column. The articles appearing in this section are specially selected from the First International Conference on Natural Resources Engineering and Technology 2006 (INRET 2006). In line with the theme of JNGC, the selected articles are focused on natural gas or low hydrocarbon conversions to important chemicals, fuels and materials. The conference was held on July 24-25, 2006 in Marriott Putrajaya, Malaysia. It was organized by the Chemical and Biotechnology (ChemBio) Focus Group, under the Research Management Centre, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

The objectives of the conference were to harness and to exchange experiences, knowledge, new ideas and information on the latest development in research pertaining to areas such as chemical, biological, environmental and pharmaceutical which involve natural resources. The conference drew in about 80 technical papers from many different countries.

Themed “Value Added Products through Process Intensification” the INRET 2006 provides yet another opportunity for researchers to present their research studies and findings as well as to exchange knowledge and information in pursuit of the latest development in chemical, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and agricultural industries. The INRET committee is indebted to the eight keynote speakers who presented their work in fields such as electrolysis, biopharmaceutical, modeling and simulation, reaction and separation, and carbon nanotubes. The conference is of immense value to all for it served as the platform to gain insights into some of the latest developments relevant to the afore-mentioned areas in the region; these are the industries that would yield greatest impact on economic, social and environmental benefits to the people at large.

We would like to thank all contributors for the interesting technical papers. We would also like to thank the technical reviewers for painstakingly taking their time to analyze each paper. We believe that the papers in this section will contribute to the advancement of knowledge and lead to more exciting studies and findings.

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