



FSEC's Dr. Nazim Muradov Presents Paper at International Symposium, "Carbon for Catalysis"

July 18-20, 2004, Lausanne, Switzerland – Dr. Nazim Muradov, Principal Research Scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) attended the First International Symposium, "Carbon for Catalysis" (Carbocat-2004) held in Lausanne. Dr. Muradov presented a paper describing FSEC research on carbon-catalyzed production of hydrogen. The Symposium attracted more than 120 scientists and engineers from around the globe working on synthesis, characterization and applications of carbon materials in catalysis. The meeting was organized by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology under the auspices of the European Federation of Catalysis Societies and the European Federation of Chemical Engineering. The Symposium gave an overview of the present state of research, technological development, processing, manufacture and application of carbon materials for catalysis and provided an interdisciplinary forum for discussing challenges, needs, technological opportunities and possible collaborations.

The program of the Symposium consisted of plenary lectures and presentations of contributed papers in oral and poster sessions in the following topic areas:

1. Fundamentals: surface chemistry and characterization
2. Carbon as a catalyst and support
3. New trends: novel carbon-based catalysts
4. Catalytic reactor engineering: structured catalytic bed and micro-reactors

Plenary lectures were presented by the world-renowned experts in the field: Profs. M. Ledoux (France), R. Schlogl (Germany), C. Moreno-Castilla (Spain). During an oral session, Dr. Muradov presented the paper "Catalytic Activity of Carbon Materials for Methane Decomposition Reaction" on behalf of his co-authors: Franklyn Smith and Dr. Ali Raissi. The presentation attracted the interest of the Symposium participants with several requesting relevant papers and discussing the possibility of future collaboration. Selected papers, including FSEC's paper, will be published in a special issue of the journal, *Catalysis Today*. The paper will also be available on www.hydrogenresearch.org at a future date.

While in Lausanne, Dr. Muradov also visited the Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and met with the director of the laboratory, Prof. Michael Grätzel. Prof. Grätzel gave a tour of the laboratory and described the latest developments in the area of photocatalytic conversion of solar energy and, particularly, dye-sensitized nano-crystalline TiO₂-based solar cells that are universally known as "Grätzel Cells." Prof. Grätzel conveyed his high opinion of solar research at FSEC and expressed an interest in visiting FSEC during one of his future visits to the U. S.

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