

**SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION AND CATALYTIC PERFORMANCE
OF Cu/ZnO/SBA-15 FOR HYDROGENATION OF
CARBON DIOXIDE TO METHANOL**

by

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**Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirement
For the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy**

Jun 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all I would like to thank my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed, for his excellent guidance and support during my studies. My heartfelt thanks to my co-supervisors, Prof. Dr. Subhash Bhatia and Associate Prof. Dr. Lee Keat Teong for their incessant support, guidance and encouragement. Special thanks to Dr. Maedah Mohammadi for her invaluable discussion and help rendered throughout this research work.

I would like to thank to all the laboratory technicians and administrative staffs in the School of Chemical Engineering who have provide their help, particularly Mrs. Aswani Mohamad, Mrs Nurul Hidayah, Mr Syamsul Hidayat, Mr Roqib, Mr Faiza and Mr Arif.

I am also grateful to all the members of postgraduate students: Salwa, Henry, Khim May, Azreen, Husna, Mernoush, and others who have helped me through the thesis.

I am indeed very thankful to my loving husband, Mohammad Edziani Rosali, my prince and princess, Muhammad Nu'man and Aisyah Maisarah, my dearest mum and dad, Sharifah Normadiyah Mamat and Mohamed Razali Mahmood, as well as my brothers and sisters. They are always on my side, riding along with my ups and downs.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Ministry of Higher Education and Universiti Malaysia Pahang for the financial support during my study. LRGs grant and RU team grant for financial support for this project.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BET	Brunauer-Emmett-Teller
BJH	Barrett, Joyner and Halenda
COST	Change one separate factor at a time
EDX	Energy dispersed X-ray
GC	Gas chromatography
GHGs	Greenhouse gases
GHSV	Gas hourly space velocity
GWP	Global warming potential
H ₂ -TPR	Hydrogen-temperature programmed reduction
MFC	Mass flow controller
P	Pressure
P123	triblock copolymer poly(ethylene glycol)- poly(propylene glycol)-poly(ethylene glycol)
RWGS	Reverse water gas shift
SBA-15	Santa Barbara Amorphous 15
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
STY	Space time yield
T	Temperature
t	Time
TCD	Thermal conductivity detector
TCP	Tri-block copolymer
TEM	Temperature electron microscopy
TEOS	Tetraethyl orthosilicate
TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis
TOS	Time on stream
wt. %	Weight percentage
XRD	X-ray diffraction

LIST OF SYMBOLS

%	Percentage
μm	Micrometre
Au	Aurum
Ce	Cerium
CH_3OH	Methanol
CH_4	Methane
cm	centi metre
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
Cr	Chromium
Cu	Copper
CuO	Copper oxide
Ea	Activation energy (kJ/mol)
EO	Ethylene oxide
Fe	Ferum
g	gram
Ga	Galium
Ga_2O_3	Galium oxide
h	Hour
H	Hydrogen atom
H_2	Hydrogen
H_2O	Water
k	Rate constant
Kg	kilogram
m	meter
Mg	Magnesium
Mn	Mangan
Mpa	mega pascal
N_2	Nitrogen
N_2O	Nitrous oxide

Ni	Nickel
NiO	Nickel oxide
nm	nanometre
O	Oxygen atom
°C	Degree celcius
Pd	Palladium
PO	Propylene oxide
R	Ideal gas law constant (8.314 J/mol.K)
Si	Silicon
Ti	Titanium
TiO ₂	Titanium oxide
wt.%	Weight percentage
Zn	Zinc oxide
ZnCO ₃	Zinc carbonate
ZnO	Zinc oxide
Zn(OH) ₂	Zinc hydroxide
ZrO ₂	Zirconium oxide
θ	Diffraction angle

**SINTESIS, PENCIRIAN DAN PELAKSANAAN BERMANGKIN
Cu/ZnO/SBA-15 BAGI PENGHIDROGENAN KARBON DIOKSIDA
KEPADA METANOL**

ABSTRAK

Karbon dioksida (CO₂) adalah gas rumah hijau yang utama yang menyebabkan kepanasan sejagat. Penukaran CO₂ kepada metanol (CH₃OH) adalah salah satu alternatif kepada mahalunya perampasan CO₂ kaji bumi dan samudera. CH₃OH adalah satu bahan penting dalam industri kimia dan dikenali sebagai satu bahan bakar alternatif. Penukaran CO₂ bermangkin dan masa ruang hasil metanol (STY) adalah bagaimanapun dilaporkan sangat rendah. Oleh itu penting untuk membangunkan mangkin secara meningkatkan sifat-sifat penambahan bermangkin. Amorfus Santa Barbara 15 (SBA-15) dengan struktur heksagon yang sangat tersusun, diameter liang (~5.5 nm) dan morfologi zarah yang sekata, ketebalan dinding yang tebal (3.0 to 5.0 nm), luas kawasan permukaan, dan tinggi kestabilan haba telah berjaya disintesis secara lazim tanpa proses penuaan hidrotermal. SBA-15 yang disintesis digunakan sebagai penyokong mangkin. Beberapa mangkin monologam dan dwilogam kuprum (Cu) atau/dan zink oksida (ZnO) disokong atas SBA-15 telah disintesis secara refluks. Sifat-sifat kimia fizik mangkin yang disediakan dikaji melalui pembelauan X-ray (XRD), penjerapan nitrogen, analisis pemetaan gravity haba (TGA), mikroskop elektron imbasan (SEM), analisis serakan tenaga X-ray (EDX), mikroskopi elektron transmisi (TEM), and hidrogen-penurunan berprogramkan suhu (H₂-TPR). Nilai optimum 5 wt.% Cu dan 15 wt.% ZnO disokong atas SBA-15 digelarkan sebagai 5Cu/15ZnO/SBA-15 dijumpai berkesan untuk memangkinkan penghidrogenan CO₂ kepada CH₃OH. Keadaan optimum

proses penghidrogenan CO_2 kepada CH_3OH atas $5\text{Cu}/15\text{ZnO}/\text{SBA-15}$ dijumpai pada tekanan tindak balas 4.0 MPa, suhu tindak balas 250 °C, dan halaju ruang jam jumlah gas bahan tindak balas (GHSV) 2400 h^{-1} yang memberi keputusan kepada 22.9% dan 11796.8 $\text{mmol kgcat}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$ masing-masing kepada penukaran CO_2 dan CH_3OH STY. Satu mekanisme laluan sintesis CH_3OH dan tindak balas anjakan balikan gas air (RWGS) atas $\text{Cu}/\text{ZnO}/\text{SBA-15}$ dicadangkan, berdasarkan keputusan ujikaji yang diperolehi dalam pembelajaran ini. Pengiraan tenaga pengaktifan sintesis CH_3OH dan pembentukan karbon monoksida (CO) adalah masing-masing 35.29 kJ/mol dan 68.02 kJ/mol, Penukaran CO_2 dan CH_3OH STY adalah stabil sepanjang 24 jam arus tindak balas dan didapati tiada nyahaktifan yang ketara. Aktiviti bermangkin tertinggi diperolehi melalui mangkin $5\text{Cu}/15\text{ZnO}/\text{SBA-15}$ boleh dihubungkan kepada tingginya serakan Cu dan ZnO keatas permukaan SBA-15, menghasilkan jumlah tapak aktif yang lebih banyak, yang diperlukan untuk sintesis metanol. Pengendapan ZnO penghijrahan diatas permukaan Cu dijumpai untuk nyahaktif tindakbalas RWGS kepada CO; dan oleh itu meningkatkan kememilihan CH_3OH .

**SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION AND CATALYTIC PERFORMANCE
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CARBON DIOXIDE TO METHANOL**

ABSTRACT

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas that causes global warming. The conversion of CO₂ into methanol (CH₃OH) is an alternative to the costly geological and oceanic CO₂ sequestration. CH₃OH is an important feedstock in the chemical industries and known as an alternative fuel. The catalytic CO₂ conversion and CH₃OH space time yield (STY) is however reported to be considerably low. It is therefore of importance to develop novel catalysts with improved properties for catalytic growth. Santa Barbara Amorphous 15 (SBA-15) with highly ordered hexagonal structure, uniform pore diameter (~5.5 nm) and particle morphology, thicker wall-thickness (3.0 to 5.0 nm), high surface area (585.20 m²/g) and high thermal stability was successfully synthesized by the conventional method without hydrothermal aging process. The synthesized SBA-15 was used as catalyst support. A number of monometallic and bimetallic catalyst of copper (Cu) or/and zinc oxide (ZnO) supported on SBA-15 were synthesized by simple reflux method. The physicochemical properties of the as-prepared catalysts were investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD), nitrogen adsorption, thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), energy dispersive X-ray analysis (EDX), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and hydrogen-temperature programmed reduction (H₂-TPR). The best amount of 5 wt.% Cu and 15 wt.% ZnO supported on SBA-15 designated as 5Cu/15ZnO/SBA-15 was found to effectively catalyze the hydrogenation of CO₂ to CH₃OH. The best process

conditions for CO₂ hydrogenation to CH₃OH over 5Cu/15ZnO/SBA-15 were found to be the reaction pressure of 4.0 MPa, the reaction temperature of 250 °C, and the reactants total gas hour space velocity (GHSV) of 2400 h⁻¹ that resulted to 22.9% and 11796.8 mmol kgcat⁻¹ h⁻¹ of CO₂ conversion and CH₃OH STY, respectively. A reaction mechanism of CH₃OH synthesis route and reverse water gas shift (RWGS) reaction on Cu/ZnO/SBA-15 was proposed, based on the experimental results obtained in this study. The calculated activation energies of CH₃OH synthesis and carbon monoxide (CO) formation were 35.29 kJ/mol and 68.02 kJ/mol, respectively. The CO₂ conversion and CH₃OH STY were stable during 24 h of reaction on stream and no obvious deactivation was observed. The higher catalytic activity obtained over the novel 5Cu/15ZnO/SBA-15 catalyst can be correlated to the high dispersion of Cu and ZnO on the SBA-15 surfaces, creating greater amount of Cu-ZnO active sites, which are necessary for CH₃OH synthesis route. The deposited ZnO migration on the Cu surfaces was found to deactivate the RWGS reaction to form CO; and therefore increasing the CH₃OH selectivity.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Global warming

Global warming is referring to gradual increase in the earth's atmosphere and ocean average temperature. This phenomenon has occurred over the past 100 years and currently is still being one of the major environmental problems. Scientists from the global warming research declared that the global warming has increased the earth average temperature between 0.4 to 0.8 °C and it is predicted to increase up to 1.4 to 5.8 °C over the next hundred years (Livescience, 2013). The evidences of earth warming can be seen by changes in weather and climate. More floods, droughts, intense rain, severe heat waves and other climates related events happen more frequently now. Big changes can be seen in glaciers and oceans, where the ocean are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting and sea level are rising (EPA, 2013). The most recent report of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) stated that the global average temperature in May 2013 was among the top three warmest months of May in past 130 years (NOAA, 2013).

The global warming has been created by greenhouse gases (GHGs) that are capable of absorbing infrared radiation, thereby trapping and holding heat in the atmosphere. Records from total GHGs emissions in 2011 show that the largest contributor is carbon dioxide (CO₂), followed by methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and several other fluorine-containing halogenated substances (HFCs, PFCs, SF₆) with emissions of 83.7, 8.8, 5.3 and 2.2%, respectively as shown in Figure 1.1 (IPCC, 2007). The impact of GHGs on global warming depends on three factors: abundance of the gas in the planet, duration of its stay in the atmosphere and its global warming potential (GWP) (EPA, 2013). The GWP of a greenhouse gas is defined as the ratio of the time-

integrated radiative forcing from the direct release of 1 kg of a trace substance relative to that of 1 kg of a reference gas (IPCC, 2001). CO₂ has a major impact because of its abundance and ability to stay in the atmosphere up to thousands of years. CH₄ can stay in the atmosphere about 10 years and its GWP is 21 times than that of CO₂. Meanwhile, GWP of N₂O is 310 and its atmospheric lifetime is 114 years. In case of fluorinated gases (HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆), their high heat trapping capacity makes them potential gases contributing to global warming, although they present in very small concentrations (IPCC, 2001; EPA, 2013).

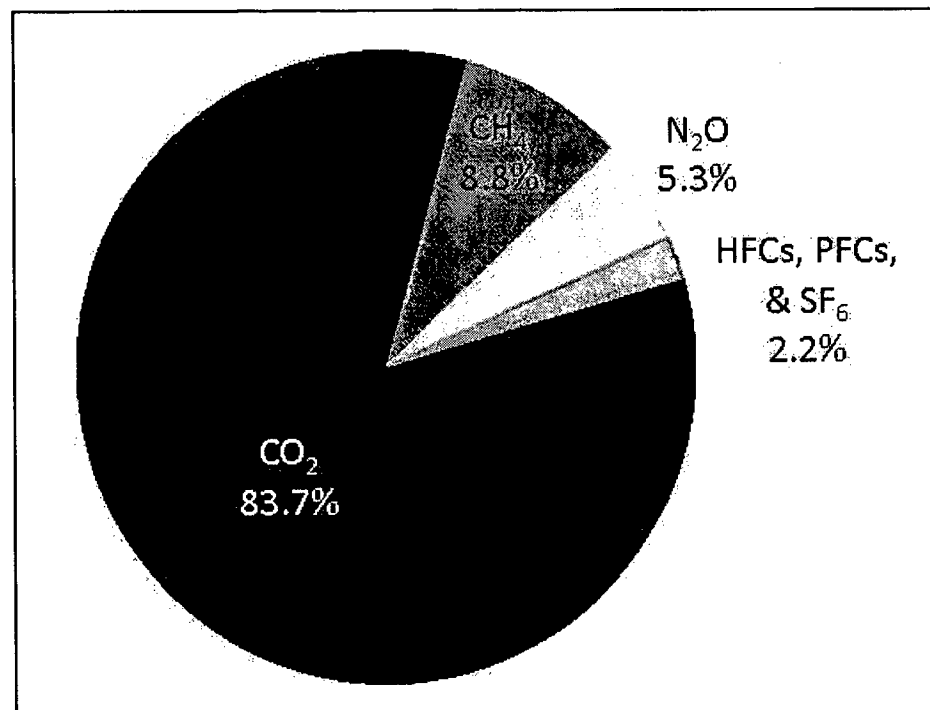


Figure 1.1: GHGs emission by gas in 2011 (IPCC, 2011).

The natural atmospheric concentrations of GHGs have changed by human activities parallel with the growth of energy consumption, transportation, man-made materials and technology (IPCC, 2007; NOAA, 2013). The largest source of CO₂, and overall greenhouse gas emissions, is fossil fuel combustion and its consumption has increased since the industrial revolution; around 270 years ago (Bill et al., 1997). CH₄

emissions are primarily resulted from domestic livestock, agricultural activities, coal mining, and decomposition of wastes in landfills. Agricultural soil management, mobile source fuel combustion and stationary fuel combustion are the major sources of N₂O emissions. Semiconductor manufacturing, primary aluminium production by-product, and electrical transmission and distribution systems are the primary contributors to fluorinated compounds emission (Song, 2006).

1.2 CO₂ in atmosphere

CO₂ is considered as an important ingredient in the carbon cycle of the earth and in the ecological system for plants and animals life, since it is used as carbon source in photosynthesis process and in food production. However, the abundance of CO₂ is more than carbon cycle demand which has led to environmental pollution. The level of CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere has been increasing significantly from decade to decade since 1955 and the most recent data of atmospheric CO₂ are 399.89 ppm for May 2013 (NOAA 2013, EPA, 2013). In addition to fossil-fuel combustion, several other sources emit significant quantities of CO₂. These sources are not limited to non-energy use of fuels but also iron and steel production and cement production (Figure 1.2).

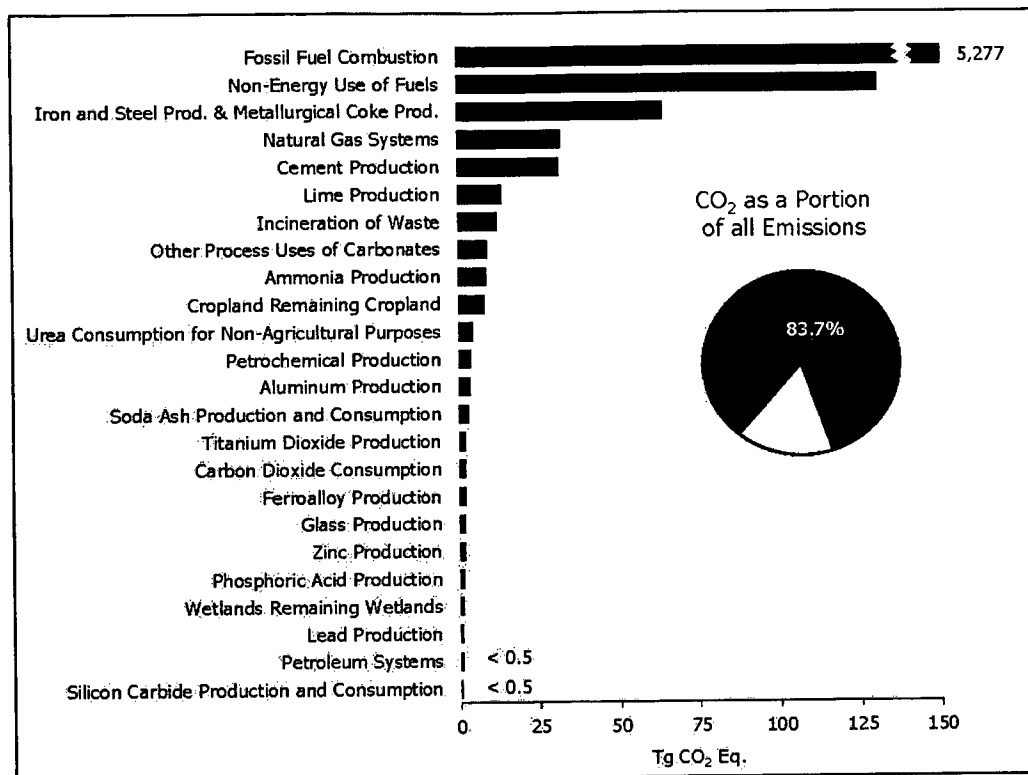


Figure 1.2. Sources of CO₂ emissions, Tg CO₂ Eq. = million metric tons CO₂ equivalent (IPCC, 2011).

1.3 CO₂ conversion for global sustainability

Reducing the CO₂ concentration and emission in the atmosphere is among the most important concerns for environmental protection and also global climate change. Under this circumstance, revolutionary approaches with innovative ideas are needed for green living environment as long term solution. The use of CO₂ as feedstock for producing chemicals is not only interesting for mitigation of GHGs emission, but is an interesting challenge to explore new concepts and opportunities for catalysis and industrial chemistry. Products that can be made from CO₂ include methanol, synthetic gas, dimethyl ether, ethylene, propylene, dimethyl carbonate, cyclic carbonate, and a variety of others (Alizadeh et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2008; Lu et al., 2004; Ma et al., 2009; Ramin et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2006).