

Development of nanosilica-based catalyst for syngas production via CO₂ reforming of CH₄: a review

Chi Cheng Chong^{a,b}, Yoke Wang Cheng^{a,b}, Mahadi B. Bahari^a, Lee Peng Teh^c, Sumaiya Zainal Abidin^{a,d}, Herma Dina Setiabudi^{a,d}

^a Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering Technology, College of Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 26300, Gambang, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^b Centre for Biofuel and Biochemical Research, Institute of Self-Sustainable Building, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, 32610, Seri Iskandar, Perak, Malaysia

^c Centre for Advanced Materials and Renewable Resources, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600, UKM Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

^d Centre of Excellence for Advanced Research in Fluid Flow, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 26300, Gambang, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

The alarming global warming issue has sparked interest in researchers to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions via CO₂ reforming of CH₄ (CRM). Regrettably, the main drawback of CRM is catalyst deactivation because of coking and metal sintering. Therefore, exceptional resistance towards coking and sintering is crucial to formulate viable CRM catalysts. This article reviewed the latest development of nanosilica-based catalysts (mesoporous nanosilica, dendritic fibrous nanosilica, green nanosilica, and core@shell nanosilica) for CRM application. The physicochemical properties of nanosilica supports could be modulated by synthesis methods to improve their resistance towards coking and sintering. Furthermore, this review compiled the influence of catalytic properties of nanosilica supported catalysts, such as active metal dispersion, crystallite size, acid-basic properties, oxygen mobility, reducibility, porosity, and morphology on CRM. To conclude, nanosilica supports with strong metal-support interaction, homogeneous metal dispersion, appropriate crystallite size, and moderate acidity/basicity, exhibited satisfactory catalytic activity, thermal stability, and resistance towards coking and sintering. The fundamental study and depth understanding on this catalysis field is of worth in configuring robust catalysts for future industrial applications success of CRM reaction with superb activity and carbon resistance for CRM.

KEYWORDS

CO₂ reforming of CH₄; Nanosilica supports; Catalytic properties; Coking; Sintering

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study was supported by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) via Research University Grant (RDU1803174).