## Tuning interactions of surface-adsorbed species over Fe–Co/K–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst by different K contents: Selective CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation to light olefins

Dr. Thanapha Numpilai<sup>a,b</sup>, Dr. Narong Chanlek<sup>c</sup>, Dr. Yingyot Poo-Arporn<sup>c</sup>, Dr. Chin Kui Cheng<sup>d</sup>, Nuchanart Siri-Nguan<sup>e</sup>, Dr. Thana Sornchamni<sup>e</sup>, Prof. Dr. Metta Chareonpanich<sup>a,b</sup>, Dr. Paisan Kongkachuichay<sup>a,b</sup>, Dr. Nevzat Yigit<sup>f</sup>, Prof. Dr. Günther Rupprechter<sup>f</sup>, Prof. Dr. Jumras Limtrakul<sup>g</sup>, Dr. Thongthai Witoon<sup>a,b,g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Center of Excellence on Petrochemical and Materials Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand
<sup>b</sup> Research Network of NANOTEC-KU on NanoCatalysts and NanoMaterials for Sustainable Energy and Environment, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand
<sup>c</sup> Synchrotron Light Research Institute, Nakhon Ratchasima, 30000, Thailand
<sup>d</sup> Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering, University Malaysia Pahang, Lebuhraya Tun Razak, Kuantan, Gambang, Pahang 26300, Malaysia
<sup>e</sup> Innovation Institute, PTT Public Company Limited, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, 13170, Thailand
<sup>f</sup> Institute of Materials Chemistry, Technische Universität Wien, Getreidemarkt 9/BC/01, Vienna, 1060, Austria

<sup>g</sup> Department of Materials Science and Engineering, School of Molecular Science and Engineering, Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology, Rayong, 21210, Thailand

## ABSTRACT

Selective CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation to light olefins over Fe–Co/K–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts was enhanced by tuning bonding strengths of adsorbed species by varying the content of the K promotor. Increasing the K/Fe atomic ratio from 0 to 0.5 increased the olefins/paraffins (O/P) ratio by 25.4 times, but then slightly raised upon ascending K/Fe to 2.5. The positive effect of K addition is attributed to the strong interaction of H adsorbed with the catalyst surface caused by the electron donor from K to Fe species. Although the Fe–Co/K–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst with K/Fe=2.5 reached the highest O/P ratio of 7.6, the maximum yield of light olefins of 16.4 % was achieved by the catalyst promoted with K/Fe of 0.5. This is explained by the considerable reduction of amount of H<sub>2</sub> adsorbed on the catalyst surface with K/Fe=2.5.

## **KEYWORDS**

Carbon dioxide; Heterogeneous catalysis; Hydrogenation; K/Fe atomic ratio; Light olefins

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported in part by the Thailand Research Fund and the Kasetsart University (grant no. RSA6280007), the Center of Excellence on Petrochemical and Materials Technology (PETROMAT), the Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC), NSTDA, the Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand, through its program of Research Network of NANOTEC (RNN), and the Postdoctoral Fellowship from Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology. GR acknowledges support by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF Projects SFB F4502 FOXSI and DK+ W1243 Solids4Fun).