## The Catalysis Society of India

## **Condolence Message**



## Dr. Henrik Topsøe, Outstanding Industrial Catalysis Scientist and Businessman

(10<sup>th</sup> August 1944- 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019)



The renowned scientist, and businessman, Henrik Topsøe, fell asleep on Friday 9th August 2019, the day before his birthday. The death occurs after several years of cancer. Henrik Topsøe leaves behind his wife, Nan-Yu Topsøe, his daughter Christina Teng Topsøe, and grandson Haldor William Topsøe Murphy.

Henrik Topsøe was born in 1944 as the son of Inger and Haldor Topsøe. He became a chemical engineer in 1967, and after an MSC, Ph.D. and postdoc at Stanford University in the US, he was employed in 1974 in the family business, Haldor Topsøe A / S.

During his scientific career, he contributed more than 180 scientific articles. He took over as chairman of the company's board of directors when Haldor Topsøe passed away in 2013. He held that position until 2016. He had to resign because of his illness. During his career, Henrik Topsøe sat on the board of directors of the University of Copenhagen and in several scientific organizations.

In 2015, he became Knight of Dannebrog. He was a member of several scientific associations such as the Chemical Society, the Danish Physical Society, the Engineers' Association, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Chemical Society and was named "Foreign Associate" in the National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Henrik Topsøe was an outstanding catalysis scientist and was closely associated with Indian Catalysis Community. He visited India several times and knew many Indian catalysis scientists personally. He has delivered his lecture in 1980 for Catalysis Symposium in CSIR-NCL, Pune organized under the leadership of Dr. Paul Ratnasamy. He has also delivered plenary lecture in

## The Catalysis Society of India



International Catalysis Symposium held in the honor of Dr. Prasada Rao on his 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday in CSIR-IIP, Deharadun. He was a fond of India like his father, Haldor Topsøe. Indian Catalysis community will miss him. In their tribute to Dr. Henrik Topsøe, Dr. Paul Ratnasamy and Dr. T.S. R. Prasada Rao said:

"He was a brilliant scientist. He was mainly instrumental in building up the experimental evidence for the "Comos" model of the cobalt moly hydrotreating catalysts. I had known him personally for almost 40 years and will sorely miss his deep insights into many aspects of the science, technology and business of Catalysis."

Dr. Paul Ratnasamy

"Henrik Topsøe was one of the very few outstanding Scientists in the World and he was dearest friend of Indian Catalysis Community."

Dr. T.S. R. Prasada Rao

On behalf of catalysis fraternity of India, Catalysis society of India appreciate scientific contribution of Dr. Henrik Topsøe. May God grant him eternal peace rest and give family the strength to bear the loss

Catalysis Society of India convey our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Dr. Raksh Vir Jasra

President, Catalysis Society of India