

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xi
	LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xx
1	INTRODUCTION	
	1.1 Natural Gas	1
	1.2 Acid Gas Treating Processes	4
	1.3 Problem Statement	7
	1.4 Significant of Study	9
	1.5 Objectives of the Research	9
	1.6 Scope of the Research	10
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	
	2.1 Introduction	11
	2.2 Nickel Based Methanation Catalysts	11
	2.3 Noble Metals Used in Methanation Reaction	18
	2.4 Supports for the Methanation Catalysts	24

3	EXPERIMENTAL	
3.1	Introduction	29
3.2	Chemicals and Reagents	29
3.3	Catalysts Preparation	30
3.4	Catalytic Reaction Conditions	31
3.5	Optimization Parameters	33
3.5.1	Amount of Nickel Loading	34
3.5.2	Calcination Temperature of Supported Catalysts	34
3.5.3	Type of Support Materials	34
3.5.3.1	Preparation of Carbon Support from Palm Kernel Shell (PKS)	34
3.5.4	Pre-Calcination Temperature of alumina support	35
3.5.5	Different Preparation Techniques	36
3.5.6	H ₂ S Testing	36
3.5.7	Reproducibility Testing	37
3.5.8	Regeneration Activity	37
3.6	Methane Measurement via Gas Chromatography	37
3.7	Characterization	38
3.7.1	X-Ray Diffraction Spectroscopy (XRD)	39
3.7.2	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy - Energy Dispersive X-Ray (FESEM-EDX)	39
3.7.3	Nitrogen Absorption Analysis (NA)	40
3.7.4	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)	40
3.7.5	Thermogravimetry Analysis-Differential Thermal Analysis (TGA-DTA)	41

4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1	Catalytic Testing Measurement	42
4.1.1	Catalytic Performance of Supported NiO Based Catalyst with Ruthenium as a First Dopant	42
4.1.2	Catalytic Performance of Supported NiO Based Catalyst with Rhodium as a First Dopant.	45
4.2	Optimization Parameter of Catalytic Performance	49
4.2.1	Effect of Nickel Loading	49
4.2.2	Effect of Different Calcination Temperature towards Supported Catalyst	52
4.2.3	Effect of Different Support Materials	56
4.2.4	Effect of Different Calcination Temperature towards Alumina Support	59
4.2.5	Effect of Different Methods of catalyst Preparation	61
4.2.6	Effect of H ₂ S Gas on the Alumina Supported Catalyst	64
4.2.7	Reproducibility Testing towards Potential Catalyst	67
4.2.8	Regeneration Testing on the Potential Catalyst	69
4.3	Methane Gas Measurement via Gas Chromatography	71
4.4	Catalyst Testing of CO ₂ Methanation Reaction using Two Reactors over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ Catalyst	74
4.5	Characterization of the Potential Catalysts	76
4.5.1	X-Ray Diffraction Analysis (XRD)	76
4.5.1.1	X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ Catalyst	76
4.5.1.2	X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ Catalyst	81

4.5.2	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-Ray	84
4.5.2.1	FESEM Analysis over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ Catalyst	84
4.5.2.2	FESEM Analysis over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ Catalyst	88
4.5.3	Nitrogen Absorption Analysis (NA)	91
4.5.4	Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) Analysis	94
4.5.5	Thermogravimetry Analysis – Differential Thermal Analysis (TGA-DTA)	97
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
5.1	Conclusions	99
5.2	Recommendations	100
	REFERENCES	102
	APPENDICES (A-E)	115-119

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Chemical composition of crude natural gas from Telaga Bergading, Petronas Carigali Sdn. Bhd.	4
3.1	Wavenumber of CO ₂ , H ₂ S, CO and CH ₄ gasses in FTIR spectra	33
4.1	Percentage conversion of CO ₂ from methanation reaction over various alumina supported nickel oxide based catalysts with ruthenium as a dopant and co-dopant	43
4.2	Percentage conversion of CO ₂ from methanation reaction over various alumina supported nickel oxide based catalysts with rhodium as a dopant and co-dopant	46
4.3	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst with different loading of nickel calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	50
4.4	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst with different loading of nickel calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	52
4.5	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined for 5 hours at four different calcination temperatures	54
4.6	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined for 5 hours at different calcination temperatures	54
4.7	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni catalyst with the ratio of 2:8:90 coated on various support materials then calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	56
4.8	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni catalyst with the ratio of 30:70 coated on various support materials then calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	58

4.9	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90) catalyst coated on alumina which has been calcined for 5 hours at different temperature	59
4.10	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70) catalyst coated on alumina which has been calcined for 5 hours at different temperature	60
4.11	Comparison of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ and Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts prepared by different preparation methods and calcined at 400°C	62
4.12	Percentage conversion of CO ₂ from methanation reaction and H ₂ S desulfurization over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours testing with and without the presence of H ₂ S gas	65
4.13	Percentage conversion of CO ₂ from methanation reaction and H ₂ S desulfurization over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours testing with and without the presence of H ₂ S gas	66
4.14	The product and by-product of CO ₂ methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst detected via GC	72
4.15	The product and by-product of CO ₂ methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst detected via GC	73
4.16	The product and by-product of CO ₂ methanation reaction using two reactors over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst detected via GC	75
4.17	Peaks assignment in the X-ray diffraction patterns of Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 700°C for 5 hours	79
4.18	Peaks assignment in the X-ray diffraction patterns of Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 1000°C for 5 hours	80
4.19	Peaks assignment in the X-ray diffraction patterns of Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 700°C for 5 hours	83
4.20	Peaks assignment in the X-ray diffraction patterns of Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 1000°C for 5 hours	84
4.21	EDX analysis of fresh and spent Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts, calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	87

4.22	EDX analysis of fresh and spent Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts, calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	90
4.23	BET surface area and average pore diameter of the fresh and spent Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)-Al ₂ O ₃ and Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	91
4.24	FTIR analysis of Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ and Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	96

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	World gas reserves (6102 tcf)	2
1.2	Domestic, commercial and industrial utilization of natural gas	3
3.1	Uncoated and coated of alumina support	30
3.2	Schematic diagram of home-built micro reactor	31
3.3	Schematic diagram of glass tube for home-built micro reactor	31
3.4	Diagram of FTIR sample cell	32
3.5	Carbon support from Palm Kernel Shell (PKS)	35
3.6	Calibration graph of standard 99.0% pure methane	38
4.1	FTIR spectra of gaseous products obtained from catalytic screening over i) Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ ii) Rh/Ni (10:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts during CO ₂ methanation reaction	48
4.2	Catalytic performance of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours with various loading of nickel: i) 90 wt% (Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃), ii) 80 wt% (Pd/Ru/Ni (5:15:80)/Al ₂ O ₃) and iii) 70 wt% (Pd/Ru/Ni (5:25:70)/Al ₂ O ₃)	50
4.3	Catalytic performance of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours with various loading of nickel: i) 90 wt% (Rh/Ni (10:90)/Al ₂ O ₃), ii) 80 wt% (Rh/Ni (20:80)/Al ₂ O ₃) and iii) 70 wt% (Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃)	51

- 4.4 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al₂O₃ catalyst calcined for 5 hours at different calcination temperatures: i) 400°C, ii) 500°C, iii) 700°C and iv) 1000°C 53
- 4.5 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al₂O₃ catalyst calcined for 5 hours at different calcination temperatures: i) 400°C, ii) 500°C and iii) 700°C 55
- 4.6 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90) catalyst with various support materials: i) Al₂O₃ beads ii) TiO₂/SiO₂ beads and iii) Carbon chips from PKS calcined at 400°C for 5 hours 57
- 4.7 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70) catalyst with various support materials: i) Al₂O₃ beads ii) TiO₂/SiO₂ beads and iii) Carbon chips from PKS and calcined at 400°C for 5 hours 58
- 4.8 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90) catalyst coated on alumina calcined for 5 hours at different temperatures: i) 700°C and ii) 1000°C 60
- 4.9 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70) catalyst coated on alumina calcined for 5 hours at different temperatures: i) 700°C and ii) 1000°C 61
- 4.10 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al₂O₃ catalyst prepared by different preparation methods i) wetness impregnation method and, ii) wetness impregnation modification method iii) Sol-gel method 63
- 4.11 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al₂O₃ catalyst prepared by different preparation methods i) wetness impregnation method and, ii) wetness impregnation modification method iii) sol-gel method 63
- 4.12 Catalytic performance of CO₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al₂O₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours testing with and without the presence of H₂S gas 64

4.13	Catalytic performance of CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours testing with and without the presence of H ₂ S gas	66
4.14	The trend plot of reproducibility testing over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours towards CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction	67
4.15	The trend plot of reproducibility testing over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours towards CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction	68
4.16	Regeneration catalytic testing over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst for 3 hours at various temperatures towards CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction	70
4.17	Regeneration catalytic testing over Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst at various temperatures and various times towards CO ₂ conversion from methanation reaction	71
4.18	Catalytic performance of CO ₂ methanation reaction using two reactors over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours and testing simultaneously with H ₂ S gas	75
4.19	XRD diffractograms of Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at a) 400°C, b) 700 °C and c) 1000°C for 5 hours	77
4.20	XRD diffractograms of Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at a) 400°C, b) 700 °C and c) 1000°C for 5 hours	81
4.21	FESEM micrographs of fresh and spent Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts, calcined at 400°C for 5 hours with magnification 5000X and 50000X	85
4.22	EDX Mapping over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	86
4.23	FESEM micrographs of fresh and spent Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts, calcined at 400°C for 5 hours with magnification 5000X	88
4.24	EDX Mapping over Rh/Ni (30:70)-Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	89
4.25	Isotherm plot of fresh Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst	92

4.26	Isotherm plot of spent Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst	93
4.27	Isotherm plot of fresh Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst	94
4.28	Isotherm plot of spent Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst	94
4.29	FTIR spectra of (a) fresh (b) spent (c) regenerated Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	95
4.30	FTIR spectra of (a) fresh (b) spent (c) regenerated Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalysts calcined at 400°C for 5 hours	95
4.31	Thermogram of Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst after aging in an oven for 24 hours at 80°C-90°C	97
4.32	Thermogram of Rh/Ni (30:70)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst after aging in an oven for 24 hours at 80°C-90°C	98

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	-	Absorbance
BET	-	Brunnauer, Emmet and Teller
BJH	-	Barret-Joyner-Halenda
Btu	-	British thermal unit
c	-	Cubic
cf	-	Cubic feet
Cu K α	-	X-ray diffraction from Copper K energy levels rate of conversion (percentage)
d	-	Pore diameter
DTA	-	Differential Thermal Analysis
EDX	-	Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis
fcc	-	Face-centered cubic
FESEM	-	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope
FID	-	Flame Ionization Detector
FTIR	-	Fourier Transform Infrared
GC	-	Gas Chromatography
GHSV	-	Gas Hourly Space Velocity
ΔH	-	Enthalpy change
h	-	Hexagonal
hr	-	Hour
IWI	-	Incipient Wetness Impregnation techniques.
LNG	-	Liquefied Natural Gas
m	-	Monoclinic
MgK α	-	X-ray diffraction from Magnesium K energy levels rate of conversion (percentage)
MS	-	Mass Spectroscopy
NA	-	Nitrogen Adsorption

P/P_0	-	Relative pressure; obtained by forming the ratio of the equilibrium pressure and vapour pressure P_0 of the adsorbate at the temperature where the isotherm is measured
PDF	-	Powder Diffraction File
PKS	-	Palm Kernel Shell
ppm	-	Part per million
PROX	-	Preferential oxidation
RWSG	-	Reverse Water Gas Shift
SMSI	-	Strong metal support interaction
SDS	-	Sodium dodecyl sulphate
SNG	-	Substitute natural gas
tcf	-	Trillion cubic feet
TGA	-	Thermogravimetry Analysis
UGC	-	Urea gelation co-precipitation
VOC	-	Volatile Organic Compounds
wt%	-	Weight percentage
WGS	-	Water Gas Shift
XRD	-	X-ray Diffraction
θ	-	Half angle of diffraction beam
λ	-	Wavelength

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
A	Preparation of Alumina Supported Nickel Oxide Based Catalysts and Its Ratio	115
B	Calculation of Methane Percentage	116
C	Schematic Diagram of Home Built Micro Reactor Connected using Two Isothermal Furnaces	117
D	Calculation of atomic weight percentage ratio of element in catalyst preparation	118
E	Calculation of weight loss over Pd/Ru/Ni (2:8:90)/Al ₂ O ₃ catalyst	119