

Tuning adsorption properties of $\text{Ga}_x\text{In}_{2-x}\text{O}_3$ catalysts for enhancement of methanol synthesis activity from CO_2 hydrogenation at high reaction temperature

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ABSTRACT

Light olefins can be produced from CO_2 hydrogenation in a single reactor using a combination of a methanol synthesis catalyst and a methanol-to-olefin (MTO) catalyst. However, commercial methanol synthesis catalysts are active at low temperatures (200–260 °C), while MTO reaction is feasible at higher temperatures (>300 °C). Herein, we report the CO_2 hydrogenation to methanol at high temperatures (320–400 °C) over $\text{Ga}_x\text{In}_{2-x}\text{O}_3$ catalysts. By tuning the Ga/In ratios, phase, crystallinity, pore structure, morphology, electronic properties as well as adsorptive properties of $\text{Ga}_x\text{In}_{2-x}\text{O}_3$ catalysts can be modified. At the lowest temperature (320 °C), the pure In_2O_3 shows the highest methanol yield. However, the maximum methanol yield declines significantly with increasing reaction temperatures. Incorporation of Ga into the In_2O_3 crystal lattices at $x = 0.4$ ($\text{Ga}_{0.4}\text{In}_{1.6}\text{O}_3$) maximizes the methanol yield at higher reaction temperatures of 340–360 °C. This enhancement can be attributed to an increased binding energy of adsorptive molecules with the catalyst surface to promote the hydrogenation of CO_2 to methanol. Further increasing Ga content ($x > 0.4$) leads to greatly strengthen the binding for adsorptive molecules, resulting in a lower methanol yield and the formation of methane. The surface chemisorbed oxygen is found to be a key factor determining the CO yield.

KEYWORDS

CO_2 hydrogenation; Methanol; Indium; Gallium

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported in part by the Graduate Program Scholarship from the Graduate School, Kasetsart University, the Thailand Research Fund and the Kasetsart University (grant no. RSA6280007), the Center of Excellence on Petrochemical and Materials Technology (PETROMAT), the National Nanotechnology Center (NANOTEC), NSTDA, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand, through its program of Research Network of NANOTEC (RNN), and the Postdoctoral Fellowship from Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology.