

**Synthesis, application and kinetic modeling of CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo catalysts for  
hydrodesulfurization of dibenzothiophene**

Abdulkadir Tanimu<sup>a</sup>, Saheed A. Ganiyu<sup>a,b</sup>, Sagir Adamu<sup>c</sup> Khalid Alhooshani<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran  
31261, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>b</sup>Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals,  
Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>c</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals,  
Dhahran 31261, Saudi Arabia.

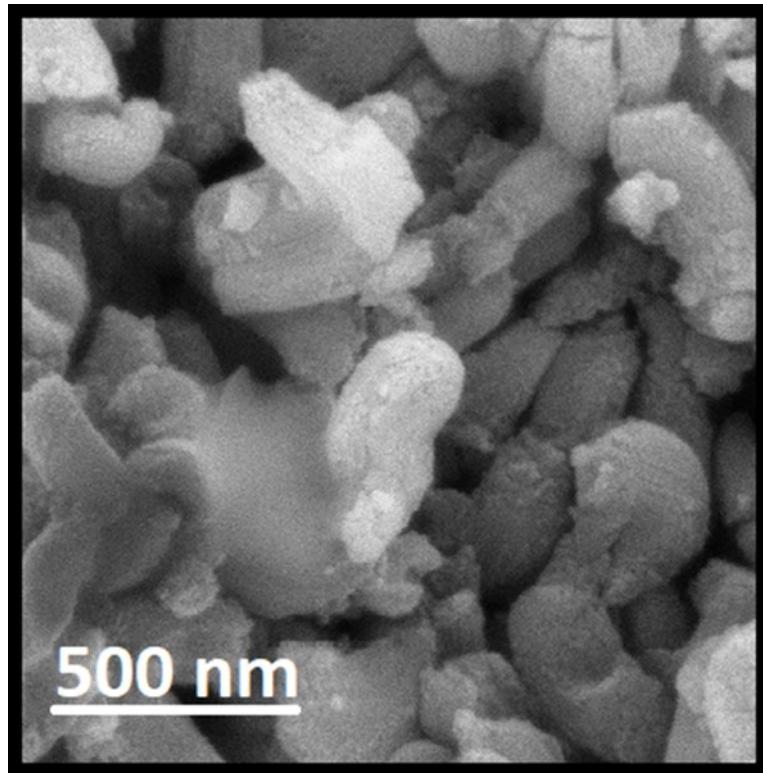


Fig. SI-1: FESEM image for Si-CoMo sulfided catalyst.

**Table S1:** Different types of Mo phases in the catalysts

Catalysts	Percent molybdenum in various oxidation states		
	Mo <sup>4+</sup> (3d <sub>5/2</sub> )	Mo <sup>6+</sup> (3d <sub>5/2</sub> )	Mo <sup>6+</sup> (3d <sub>3/2</sub> )
<b>Binding energy</b>	<b>229.5 eV</b>	<b>231.8 eV</b>	<b>235.6 eV</b>
<b>Si-CoMo</b>	11.51	58.24	30.25
<b>1CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo</b>	20.86	30.16	48.98
<b>2.5CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo</b>	33.44	44.59	21.97
<b>5CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo</b>	-	40.92	59.08
<b>10CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo</b>	-	44.16	55.84

**Table S2:** Effect of process temperature for 2.5CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo (5 MPa; DBT=1000 ppm; reaction time = 4 h).

Temperature (°C)	Percent sulfur removal (%) at different temperature			
	1h	2h	3h	4h
325	64.58	75.01	87.23	95.46

<b>350</b>	73.54	90.42	94.6	98.14
<b>375</b>	99.27	100	100	100

**Table S3:** Catalyst performance results: Product distribution (%) after 1h for 2.5CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo at varying temperatures (Process conditions: 5 MPa; DBT=1000 ppm).

<b>Temp (°C)</b>	<b>Product distribution (%)</b>			
	<b>CPB</b>	<b>CHB</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>THDBT</b>
<b>325</b>		14.46	85.54	-
<b>350</b>	-	15.53	84.47	-
<b>375</b>	-	16.05	83.95	-

**Table S4:** Effect of temperature on first-order rate constants for HDS of DBT (catalyst = 2.5CeO<sub>x</sub>-Si-CoMo).

<b>Temperature (°C)</b>	<b><math>k_{HDS} \times 10^3 \text{ (min}^{-1}\text{)}</math></b>	<b><math>k_{DDS} \times 10^3 \text{ (min}^{-1}\text{)}</math></b>	<b><math>k_{HYD} \times 10^3 \text{ (min}^{-1}\text{)}</math></b>	<b><math>k_{DDS}/k_{HYD}</math></b>
<b>325</b>	17.30	14.80	2.50	5.92
<b>350</b>	22.16	18.72	3.44	5.44
<b>375</b>	82.00	68.64	13.16	5.22