Catalytic Steam Reforming of Propane over Ni/LaAlO3 Catalysts: High Activity and Enhanced Stability

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To develop an efficient catalyst for steam reforming of propane (SRP), Ni-based catalysts supported onto LaAlO $_3$ were prepared by deposition precipitation, impregnation, and solvothermal methods and further characterized by XRD, BET, H $_2$ -TPR, elemental analyses, and TEM. The Ni/LaAlO $_3$ catalysts showed enhanced catalytic performances compared to both Ni/Al $_2$ O $_3$ and Ni/CeO $_2$ catalysts. The activities with Ni/LaAlO $_3$ were found to be dependent upon the preparation methods, and particularly, the Ni/LaAlO $_3$ catalyst synthesized by a solvothermal method exhibited the highest activity. In addition, the solvothermally prepared Ni/LaAlO $_3$ catalyst was found to be highly stable during SRP, with its activity being maintained during 100 h of reaction. The observed high stability likely resulted from the excellent oxygen storage capacity (OSC) of LaAlO $_3$. Moreover, soot oxidations with Al $_2$ O $_3$, CeO $_2$, and LaAlO $_3$ has confirmed the superior oxygen storage capacity of LaAlO $_3$. Compared to the Ni/Al $_2$ O $_3$ and Ni/CeO $_2$ catalysts, Ni/LaAlO $_3$ suppressed the carbon formation even at lower S/C ratios.