Physical Mixture of Pt-BaO/CeO $_2$ and Cu/CeO $_2$ as an Active Catalyst Component for Low-Temperature Lean NO $_x$ Trap

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Pt-BaO/CeO $_2$ (PBC) is widely used as a lean NO $_x$ trap (LNT) catalyst to remove NO $_x$ exhaust from lean-burn engines. However, it is difficult to meet current emission regulations by using this Pt-BaO/CeO $_2$ catalyst because of its poor low-temperature activity. To enhance the NO $_x$ removal efficiency at low temperatures, Cu/CeO $_2$ (CC) catalyst was physically mixed with PBC catalyst. Physical mixture of PBC and CC (PBC+CC) showed a considerable synergy for NO $_x$ storage and reduction under lean-rich cycle operation. The origin of this synergy was carefully studied by the series of NO $_x$ storage, NO $_x$ -TPD, transient water-gas shift (WGS), NO $_x$ -TPR experiments. Under the lean cycle, CC exhibited a better NO oxidation activity, rendering much faster NO $_x$ storage on PBC. Under the rich cycle, CC achieved much better WGS activity for H $_2$ production over CC, accelerating the reduction of NO $_x$ which had been stored on PBC.