

9th Kudowa Summer School “Towards Fusion Energy”

This and all previous editions of the Kudowa Summer School “Towards Fusion Energy” was held at Kudowa Zdrój, one of the historical and beautiful spa resorts in the bucolic woods in Lower Silesia in Poland.

This summer school is a joint teaching initiative of three laboratories: the Institute of Plasma Physics and Laser Microfusion (IPPLM), Association Euratom-IPPLM, Warsaw, Poland, the KFKI Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Association Euratom-HAS, Budapest, Hungary and the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Association Euratom-IPP.CR, Prague, Czech Republic. It is organized every year and aims at graduate and postgraduate students active in or becoming active in controlled thermonuclear fusion.

The scope of the Kudowa Summer school is rather wide: the subjects include studies on plasma focus and Z-pinches, tokamaks, stellarators and inertial confinement devices, with as highlights ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, France) and NIF (National Ignition Facility, USA). A total of 54 participants were taught on the physics governing the behavior of plasmas in both magnetic and inertial experimental thermonuclear fusion devices.

Worries about climate change and energy prices are reminding people all over the world on the urgent need for a sustained availability of cheap energy and controlled thermonuclear fusion research – until very recently considered to be somewhat exotic – is now becoming one of the focal points of our modern society's attention as it tries to offer a base load energy production scheme for many future generations. Moreover, fusion research worldwide is entering a very interesting phase with the advent of ITER and NIF, and teaching the new generation of scientists is not just an academic exercise in plasma physics, but a necessary ingredient to realize the fusion dream: by the time the main results of these large experimental devices will be available, most of the present-generation researchers will have transferred their knowledge to the next generation of fusion researchers. In addition to the speakers from

the three participating institutes, scientists from other European Laboratories are also participating to highlight specialized topics. The organizing committee of the Kudowa Summer School is, therefore, grateful to all lecturers from the organizing Institutes and is very happy to acknowledge the efforts of Drs. D. Mazon (CEA, Cadarache, France), J. M. Perlado (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Madrid, Spain), D. Batani (Università di Milano Bicocca, Milano, Italy), P. Kubeš (Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic), H.-J. Kunze (Ruhr Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany), V. Tikhonchuk (Université Bordeaux 1, Talence, France), H. Schmidt (University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany), T. Todd (CCFE, Culham, UK) and L. Torrisi (Università di Messina, Messina & INFN-Laboratori Nazionali, Catania, Italy). Next to the invited talks by scientists from all over Europe, the school also includes presentations by the students, which offers them an excellent opportunity to present their work to an international audience. To stimulate competition, the best three presentations are rewarded with a certificate and a unique prize.

Organizing the Summer School necessarily relies on the visible and invisible support of many colleagues from the participating laboratories. The organizing committee would like to thank explicitly all staff members involved for their support and hard work to turn the Kudowa Summer School into an unforgettable event every year!

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