

Preface

We are happy to present the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Neutron Scattering 2008 that was held at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai during January 15–18, 2008. The symposium covered various aspects of neutron scattering research and applications in physics, chemistry, biology and material science. More than 200 participants from 15 countries including several world leaders from laboratories in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, UK, USA, and others attended the symposium. Many dignitaries including some pioneers of the neutron scattering activity in India graced the occasion and participated in the deliberations.

There were 48 invited talks and 90 contributed poster papers. The talks included topics on new experimental facilities, and studies involving diffraction, magnetism, biological systems, hydrogen and diffusion, dynamics, neutron optics, small-angle scattering, reflectometry, and other applications. Present day mega-facilities, upcoming as well as proposed ones, were presented. Other presentations covered a wide range of science that is being pursued all over the world. Parallel sessions were avoided, which enabled a broad exposure to all the major fields of neutron scattering for everyone.

Dr Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, inaugurated the symposium. Dr Srikumar Banerjee, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, presided over the inaugural function, and Dr G Venkataraman, Former Vice-Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai University was the chief guest. Dr V C Sahni, Director, Physics Group, BARC and Director, Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, gave introductory remarks about the symposium. Dr J V Yakhmi, Associate Director (S), Physics Group, welcomed the participants. We are indebted to these torchbearers for their words of wisdom, guidance, encouragement and support.

We are very much grateful to the esteemed members of the international advisory committee for their advice and guidance.

The conference organization owes its success to the efforts of our colleagues in the organizing committee, and many other individuals, especially the staff of Solid State Physics Division, and various agencies in BARC. In particular, we express our gratitude to Drs S Basu, S M Yusuf, P U Sastry and V K Aswal. The symposium was held at the Nabhikiya Urja Bhavan, NPCIL, and Training School Hostel, BARC. We are thankful to the respective authorities.

The symposium was sponsored by Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, and was organized in cooperation with IAEA. We gratefully acknowledge their support.

Our heartfelt thanks are due to all the participants for their contributions and the referees of the papers for sparing their valuable time. We especially thank the Editorial Board of *Pramana* for their support in bringing out these

Proceedings, and all the members of the *Pramana* editorial office for their efforts throughout the publication process.

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