

11th International Symposium and School 2012 in Kraków - the very successful and remarkable event

The 11th ISSRNS was organized by the Polish Synchrotron Radiation Society in cooperation with the Henryk Niewodniczański Institute of Nuclear Physics at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków and under the honorary patronage of the Mayor of the Royal City of Kraków, Prof. Jacek Majchrowski, General Director of the Institute of Nuclear Physics PAN, Prof. Marek Jeżabek, and Rector of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Prof. Karol Musioł.

The Board of Polish Synchrotron Radiation Society decided to organize the meeting in Kraków because the National Synchrotron Radiation Centre SOLARIS is located there; the corner stone ceremony for it also took place at the synchrotron site in the new University campus in May, 2012. The conference venue was very close to the place where SOLARIS is being built.

The Royal City of Kraków is [one of] the major center of education in Poland. Ten university or academy-level institutions educate 170,000 students here,

and next eleven institutions of academic education. Kraków is now a city of culture and science with numerous theatres, cinemas, museums, galleries, music centers and cabarets. In 1978, Kraków was included on the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage. The town is located 219 m above sea level, on the Vistula River, 100 km from the Tatra Mountains and 300 km from Warsaw, the capital of Poland. The historic centre of Kraków, the former (until the 17th century) capital of Poland, is situated at the foot of the Royal Wawel Castle. The 13th-century merchants' town has Europe's largest market square and numerous historical houses, palaces and churches with their magnificent interiors. Further evidence of the town fascinating history is provided by the remnants of the XIVth-century fortifications and by the medieval site of Kazimierz with its ancient synagogues in the southern part of town, historical buildings of the Jagiellonian University in the center of the Old Town, and - on the Wawel hill - the gothic cathedral where many kings of Poland were buried.



Figure 1. The session in City Hall.

Photo by. J. Pelka



Figure 2. The excursion along the Vistula river.

Photo by W. Przybyłowicz

The very successful and remarkable event which was the ISSRNS 2012 that could combine scientific purpose with possible rest. Both was possible due to all lecturers, contributors and participants from fourteen countries such as: Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, South Africa, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, and The Netherlands. I would like to thank all them for wonderful atmosphere they have created. In the programme, there was a special session held in the City Hall (Fig. 1). The lectures of this session presented current status of the SOLARIS project among other important Polish activities on large scale facilities such as the National Center for Hadron Therapy and PoLFEL project. We had also opportunities to have informal meetings and discussions. Any place was good for those, on boat (Fig. 2), during the walk through the city or in the Niepołomice Royal Castle.

The scientific topics discussed at the ISSRNS 2012 meeting included are listed below.

- Synchrotron radiation in nanoscience
- X-ray absorption, fluorescence and photoelectron spectroscopies
- X-ray magnetic dichroism
- X-ray diffraction: methods and applications
- Macromolecular crystallography
- Synchrotron radiation in life sciences
- Applications of free electron lasers

- Synchrotron and alternative radiation sources - instrumentation.

The conference programme included 23 plenary and section lectures, 21 oral communications as well as 64 posters (the activities during the poster session are illustrated in Fig. 3). A measurable result of conference is the volume of Radiation Physics and Chemistry edited by W.M. Kwiatek, M. Kozak, and W. Paszkowicz. This volume contains selected 31 papers on the research work presented at the ISSRNS 2012 conference. The papers cover a wide range of research topics connected with the synchrotron radiation ranging from construction of free electron lasers or synchrotron optics, to the structural biology or applications of synchrotron radiation for cultural heritage protection.

The financial support from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and our industrial sponsors such as Hamamatsu, Bruker Poland, Bruker-Optics, Panalytical, Netzsch, and Spectro-Lab is highly acknowledged.

Needless to say, the success of the ISSRNS 2012 would not be possible without hard work of International Advisory Board, Scientific Committee, and Local Organizing Committee to whom should be given the special warm thankfulness.

Welcome for the next ISSRNS meeting to be held in the proximity of Warsaw in June 2014.

Wojciech M. Kwiatek
/Conference Chairman/



Figure 3. Poster session.

Photo by S. Bożek