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Editorial summary of the EXRS 2006 conference

The 12th European X-ray Spectrometry Conference was held between June 19 and 23, 2006, in Paris, France. The organizers were the Laboratoire National Henri Becquerel, CEA, and the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, CNRS. The venue of the conference was the Cité Internationale Universitaire, the famous complex of the Université de Paris built between the two World Wars as an international meeting ground for knowledge and peace. The 35-ha park surrounding the Maison Internationale, which hosted the meeting, is a place for students from over 125 nations to get together, and is spread out among 37 turn-of-the-century residences.

The conference was organized in 17 sessions as follows:

Interaction of x rays with matter
Microbeam techniques
Applications in art and archaeometry
Applications in earth and environmental sciences
Synchrotron radiation instrumentation
Applications in life sciences
X-ray absorption spectroscopy
Data processing
Applications in materials science and industry — nanotechnology
TXRF and related techniques
New instruments
Quantitation
X-ray optics
X-ray detectors
X-ray imaging
WDXRS
Pierre Chevallier Honorary session

We had the great pleasure of welcoming a total of 325 participants representing 40 countries. Ninety-two papers were accepted for oral presentations and 180 for poster presentations, which were divided into three sessions. The Industrial Exhibition was held from Monday to Wednesday and hosted 23 companies.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance from the sponsoring institutions: Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Laboratoire National d'Essais, Région Ile de France, European Physical Society, International Atomic Energy Agency, SOLEIL Synchrotron. Thanks to the contributions by our sponsors, we distributed 18 grants to students and young scientists from the less privileged countries.

The conference was officially opened on Monday morning by Prof. Bernard Bigot, the French High Commissioner for atomic energy, with the opening lecture entitled *Mega-joule Laser (LMJ) and International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER): new frontiers in nuclear fusion*. The invited speakers from ten countries opened the respective sessions as follows:



Prof. Paul Indelicato, France: *X-ray standards: from x-ray tubes to highly-charged ions*
Dr Eric B. Steel, USA: *X-ray detectors: New technologies, capabilities and challenges*
Dr Philippe Walter, France: *New trends on x-ray analysis of painting materials*
Dr Max Wilke, Germany: *Determination of oxidation state and speciation in geologically relevant systems using XANES*
Dr Carlos A. Perez, Brazil: *Current research activities in environmental and surface science using micro-XRF and grazing-exit XRF spectroscopy at the XRF beamline of the LNLS*
Prof. John J. Rehr, USA: *Theory and applications of x-ray absorption spectra*
Prof. Christina Strelt, Austria: *Synchrotron radiation induced TXRF*
Dr Andreas G. Karydas, Greece: *X-ray spectrometric methods towards an integrated, in situ analytical characterization of cultural heritage materials/artifacts. An overview*
Dr Bruno Vrebos, The Netherlands: *Quantitative XRF analysis of trace levels in geological materials*
Prof. Joaquim dos Santos, Portugal: *Gas detectors for x-ray spectrometry*
Prof. Gyula Faigel, Hungary: *Ten years of x-ray holography*
Dr Kouichi Tsuji, Japan: *Grazing-exit and micro wavelength-dispersive x-ray spectrometry (GE-WDXRS and micro-WDXRS)*

The social programme started on Sunday afternoon with the welcome reception at the Maison Internationale followed by a cocktail party on Monday evening in the salon of the Hotel de Lassay. Wednesday afternoon was devoted to a guided tour of the Versailles castle. The conference banquet was held on Thursday evening near the Champs Élysées. During this, the three best poster awards were presented by the Awards Committee composed of Prof. R. Van Grieken, Dr B. Vrebos, Prof. L. Vincze, Prof. P. Wobrauschek, Prof.

H. Sanchez, Prof. S. Török, Prof. M. Mantler and Dr B. Kanngiesser to:

S. Kang, H. Hwang, Y. Park, E. Choi, M.S.I. Khan, H. Kim, and C.-U. Ro: *Single-particle characterization of seasonal aerosol samples collected at a subway station platform in Seoul, Korea;*

Markus Krämer, Alex Von Bohlen, Christian Sternemann and Roland Hergenröder: *XSW- X-ray standing waves in simulation and experiment;* and

Ch. Zarkadas, M. Mueller, A. G. Karydas, B. Beckhoff, M. Kolbe and R. Fliegau: *Determination of X-ray resonant Raman scattering cross sections of nickel employing both synchrotron radiation and proton induced X-rays*

Finally, on Friday afternoon, visits to the C2RMF laboratory near the Louvre museum and to the SOLEIL synchrotron in the south of Paris were organized. The conference ended on Friday noon, after the closing remarks

of Dr Burkhard Beckhoff who mastered the challenge task of taking notes at parallel sessions in order to review the highlights of the conference.

We take this opportunity to thank all the presenters for their outstanding contributions, the session chairs for stimulating discussions and the EXRS Advisory Committee for its valuable support before and during the conference. We would also like to warmly thank the local organizing committee from the Laboratoire National Henri Becquerel for a full week of support during the conference and also for many months of preparation.

The next conference will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in June 2008. We look forward to seeing you there.

Marie-Christine Lépy
Alexandre Simionovici
Co-chairs