INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NEUTRON SCATTERING 2008

The DAE-BRNS International Symposium on Neutron Scattering 2008 (ISNS 2008) was held in Mumbai, during January 15-18, 2008. The Symposium covered various aspects of neutron scattering research and applications in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Materials Science. More than 200 participants from 15 countries included several leaders in neutron scattering from advanced laboratories in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA.

Dignitaries including pioneers in neutron scattering activity in India, graced the occasion and participated in the deliberations. Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, inaugurated the Symposium. Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, Director, BARC, 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

At the inauguration from left to right: Dr. S. Banerjee, Director, BARC, Dr. G. Venkataraman Chief Guest, Dr. A. Kakodkar, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy, Dr. V.C. Sahni, Director, Physics Grp. and Director RRCAT, Indore, Dr. S.L. Chaplot, Head, Solid State Physics Divn.
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, gave introductory remarks about the Symposium. Dr. J. V. Yakhmi, Associate Director (S), Physics Group, welcomed the participants and Dr. S.L. Chaplot, Head, Solid State Physics Division proposed the vote of thanks.

There were 48 invited talks out of which 40 talks were delivered by delegates from ORNL, ANL, LANL, UCSD, NIST, Chalk River, ISIS, PSI, ILL, LLB, HMI, FRM2, FZJ, FZK, JINR, Vienna, Copenhagen, Warwick, JAEA, J-PARC and ANSTO. The talks covered topics such as 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, were presented There were also 90 contributed papers put up as posters. Presentations covered a wide range of topics on neutron scattering.

The Symposium was fully funded by BRNS and was organized in cooperation with IAEA. The talks were delivered in the beautiful auditorium at Nabhakiya Urja Bhavan and the poster session was held at the Training School Hostel cum Guest house at Anushaktinagar, Mumbai.

Researchers from universities and other academic institutions, utilize the National Facility for Neutron Beam Research at BARC regularly. Several research projects have been carried out under the aegis of UGC-DAE-CR. In addition to this, the Facility has been extensively used by BARC for basic research in Condensed Matter Science. This International Symposium facilitated useful scientific discussions among the national and international researchers and was of immense benefit to the research and development activities at BARC. In particular, informal discussions included possibilities of our participation in international collaborations with some of the most advanced research centres and also in a proposed Asia-Oceania Neutron Scattering Association.

In the concluding session, it was suggested that this International Symposium should be held once in every three years in India.

A group photograph of the participants