

6 Conferences, training and education activities

8th Kudowa Summer School “Towards Fusion Energy – Plasma Physics, Diagnostics, Technology”

The 8th in the series of the Kudowa Summer School “Towards Fusion Energy” took place, as it was the case in the previous years, in a charming Polish town Kudowa Zdrój (formerly Bad Kudowa in pre-war Niederschlesien) from 21st to 25th September 2009. The summer school is organized annually by the Association EURATOM-IPPLM, National Contact Point Euratom-IPPLM (Institute of Plasma Physics and Laser Microfusion, Warsaw, Poland) and the International Centre for Dense Magnetised Plasmas (ICDMP) in cooperation with Czech and Hungarian Euratom Associations.

The venue for the Summer School was Villa Antica in Kudowa Zdrój. A total of 16 invited lectures on the various aspects of plasma physics and controlled thermonuclear fusion were presented during the all week. In addition, the students attending school also contributed with their 22 oral speeches and presentations.

The invited lecturers presented a wide range of topics on fusion physics and technology: magnetic and inertial confinement, plasma diagnostics, plasma facing components, detailed physical aspects of various fusion devices (stellarators, tokamaks and plasma focus), an overview of research on small tokamak devices, and a glance at the future of magnetic fusion research with overview on JET and ITER. Lecturers were invited from numerous fusion research laboratories across Europe, the European Commission, some leading Plasma Physics Research groups at institutes and universities in Europe.

The students demonstrated deep knowledge in their well prepared presentations on their own work. Students' talks covered research results from PF-1000 (Plasma Focus 1000, International Centre for Dense Magnetised Plasmas, Warsaw, Poland), CTU's PFZ (Plasma Focus on the Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic) WEGA stellarator (Max-Planck Institute for Plasma Physics, Greiswald, Germany), COMPASS tokamak (Institute of Plasma Physics, Prague), Uragan-3M torsatron (Institute of Plasma Physics, National Science Center “Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology”, Kharkov, Ukraine). In addition, there were also presentations on spectroscopic measurement, on the first stage of the COMPASS tokamak at IPP Prague, research results from the X-ray crystal spectrometer at JET, theoretical studies, on plasma physics at the University of Szczecin and studies on capillary discharges and laser generated pulsed plasmas.

The atmosphere at the summer school was, as every year, friendly and motivating. As usual, when scientists get together, there were many stimulating discussions during lectures and breaks, touching both plasma physics, but also more general physics problems, and much “networking” was achieved between friends, old and new.