

Preface

To fuse or not to fuse: this was one of the many questions related to quantum tunnelling at the femtometer scale that were discussed at FUSION11- Tunnelling through barriers, the 5th in this series of conferences. The conference was held at Palais du Grand Large, St Malo, France between the 2nd and 6th of May 2011. This beautiful town on the English Channel hosted a nuclear physics conference almost after 25 years. The conference was attended by 114 participants from 21 countries from various parts of the world.

A large number of new and interesting results, both experimental and theoretical, were presented after a gap of three years from the earlier conference in the series at Chicago. These ranged from understanding and measuring the role of the intrinsic structure of light exotic nuclei on the reaction mechanism to the production of super heavy elements. We hope that the work presented here will stimulate new ideas in the field. There was also an interesting evening talk on Thermonuclear Fusion and ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) describing its status and challenges.

The conference was supported by GANIL, CNRS, CEA, French Ministry of Education and Regional Council of Brittany. The organizing committee consisted of Christine, Christelle, Denis, Héloïse and Maurycy who meticulously planned the conference over the last 3 years (since FUSION08). Special thanks are due to Christelle for her additional efforts in coordinating the publication of these proceedings in a timely fashion. The international advisory committee consisted of Alexis, Christian, Dan, Dieter, Ernst, Huanqiao, Kailas, Kouichi, Lorenzo, Mahananda, Nicolas, Paulo, Ricardo and Valery, who played a vital role in ensuring the high scientific quality of this conference. The active support and encouragement from Sydney Gales, Director, GANIL, is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank Nuclear Physics division at CEA/Bruyères-le-Châtel for printing the abstract books. Thanks are also due to Guillaume, Sabrina, Nicolas and the staff at the conference centre who contributed to the smooth running of the conference.

From the positive feedback received (except for the complaint that it was not possible to "skip" any session, as the talks were too well chosen!) and the enthusiasm of the participants the conference can be declared a success. In recognition of the pioneering contributions to the field Peter Armbruster and Carlos Dasso, were presented mementos on this occasion. The excursion to Mont Saint Michel (the second most visited tourist attraction in France), the excellent conference dinner (venue chosen by Christine), and the warm welcome by the Mayor of St Malo in the town hall also added their own cultural value and charm to the meeting.

The International Organizing Committee has selected New Delhi, India, as the venue for the next conference in 2014. We wish the organizers all the best in this endeavour.

With best wishes

A. Navin

Chairman FUSION11

(On behalf of the Editors)

