

Welcome address by the Rector of the University of Florence

On behalf of the University of Florence it is a great pleasure to give you all the warmest welcome to the opening ceremony of the 25th edition of the International Nuclear Physics Conference (INPC).

First of all, I would like to thank the INPC board for having chosen to hold this important international conference here in Florence. It is the second time that the conference is organized in Florence, the first one being in 1983. I believe this continuing attention to our town is also an acknowledgement to the research activity developed here in the field of Nuclear Physics.

Let me say very few words about the University of Florence. It can trace its origins to the *Studium*, which was founded in 1321. In 1923 it was established as a public University and started its activities in several fields, including Physics. At that time one of the professors was Enrico Fermi.

Presently, the University of Florence is one of the largest Universities in Italy. It counts for almost 1800 professors and researchers and more than 50000 students. Each year there are more than 8000 new students, which attend one of the first level “laurea” degree courses.

The research and the education activities of the University of Florence cover all the disciplines, including social sciences and humanities, the technological and biomedical areas, and, of course, the scientific area.

Inside the scientific area there is the Department of Physics and Astronomy, which is located in a campus nearby Florence. The Department is very active in Nuclear Physics research since a long time. This research activity greatly benefits from the very close collaboration with the National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN), which has researchers, infrastructures and laboratories located in the same scientific campus.

Let me also say that the professors of Nuclear Physics have often contributed to the government of our University. Indeed, Paolo Blasi was Rector of the University of Florence from 1991 to 2000, and presently Giacomo Poggi is the Vice-Rector.

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the chairman Cosimo Signorini and the vice-chairman and colleague Piero Mandò, and to all the people that have worked very hard to organize the 2013 edition of INPC here in Florence.

I would like to thank again you all for attending the conference. I really hope you will enjoy the program as well as your staying in Florence.

Prof. Alberto Tesi
Rector of the University of Florence

Welcome address by the Director of the Department of School, University and Research of the Tuscany Region

On behalf of the President of the Tuscany Region Enrico Rossi, and of Stella Targetti, Councillor for School, University and Research, I would like to extend our greetings and to wish the success for the International Nuclear Physics Conference.

Particularly I would like to thank Piero Mandò, co-chairman of the Conference and director of Sezione di Firenze of INFN, the Italian National Institute of Nuclear Physics.

This meeting represents an important opportunity to deal with the central themes of research and innovation. We are in fact certain that sharing information and initiatives can constitute a further and important element to reinforce and improve research quality. As noted by the European Commission, Europe faces a difficult task. It must exit from a deep crisis and reduce unemployment and poverty. Such an ambitious task requires swift actions on many fronts, which is why the European Council adopted the Europe 2020 Strategy. To succeed, European, national, regional and local levels all need to play their part. Regional policy should continue to play a critical role in these difficult times, in order to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, while promoting harmonious development and reducing disparities.

On the occasion of this meeting topics will be discussed regarding collaboration opportunities between research infrastructures-universities and industry, and joining synergistic initiatives, for example in the cultural heritage sector.

The development of networks and international cooperation is crucial:

- **to learn and improve**
- **to promote the values and skills for the benefit of all**
- **to be recognized and attract resources**
- **to influence global decision-makers choices**

It is important that this takes place in a coordinated and integrated manner, while respecting the autonomy and capacity for initiative of each individual, local or sectorial, rebuilding a virtuous circle between research and industry to enhance productivity and competitiveness.

The Tuscan regional administration offers support to the research and innovation system on a variety of fronts and using a wide range of tools. Taking the dualism between the public research system and the capacity of the private component in due consideration, a particular effort is devoted to the creation of joint ventures between the universities and regional research centers, on one hand, and the production system, public administrations and, more in general, the regional society, on the other.

University and research can and must have a key role in accompanying Tuscany along a new development path, not only by forming human capital and producing new knowledge but also by providing regional enterprises with knowledge useful for innovation and implementing new application solutions with them, with a view to developing a free and democratic knowledge-based society.

The presence of widespread scientific and technological expertise in universities and public research centers, as well as the presence of enterprises operating in high-quality traditional sectors and high-technology emerging clusters, provides the Region with the challenge to take on a proactive role in promoting effective interaction between institutional groups and in improving existing specialization techniques. The development of mechanisms for effective promotion and effective transfer of research results is a challenge of increasingly urgent importance, since this may allow a more accurate and targeted use of public resources, the creation of business communities, the creation of new jobs in the area that also attracts talented people from around the world, and finally the social and economic improvement of the citizens in general.

Thank you very much for your attention and enjoy your stay in Florence.

Ing. Marco Masi - Regione Toscana
Direttore Area di Coordinamento Istruzione, Università e Ricerca
marco.masi@regione.toscana.it

Welcome address by Eugenio Nappi from the Executive Board of INFN

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor and a great privilege for me to represent INFN in addressing so a large attendance at this conference and a pleasure to warmly welcome you in Florence. The high number of attendees is already a success and a proof that the international community of nuclear physicists is very much alive and full of enthusiasm and hope for the future.

Despite its current tougher budget resulting from the financial crisis, INFN has firmly supported the organization of this conference since the very beginning in competition with strong and renowned institutions. My heartfelt thanks go to IUPAP C-12 for having selected Florence and to all the other sponsors for their great support to make possible such event, which belongs to a series of conferences considered the main worldwide forum for presenting any novel development in nuclear physics. Moreover, I strongly believe that the maximum scientific benefit of INPC2013 is to encourage researchers to look beyond the headlines and to help them to bridge various research topics.

Nuclear physicists have so far contributed to world-class research facilities, which provided high quality scientific achievements and the most inspiring and beneficial prospect into the future for science and technology. However, as a consequence of the difficult economical period, research activities in fundamental sciences are becoming less and less supported by governments. Our task, as scientists, is to establish a network to increase awareness about the role of Nuclear Physics for the future. We must convince people that basic research and collaboration across borders are very effective and powerful drivers for the innovation. In this action, international committees of experts active in nuclear science, like NuPECC and NSAC, play a key role in conveying strategic advices to the governments on the importance for the society of the technological advances driven by the basic research. Equally relevant is the message that, in the future, a highly trained workforce in nuclear techniques and knowledge will be more and more needed to run accelerators in the industry, to perform diagnostics and therapeutics by medical imaging and hadron therapy methods, and so on.

Let me conclude by looking forward to the week ahead, I have no doubt that this Conference will be fruitful and we will acquire new skill and knowledge from the presentations. I would encourage all participants to take active parts in the discussions that will be held.

I wish all of you a joyful stay in this wonderful town.

Eugenio Nappi
Executive Board of INFN

