

Preface

It is the 12th Conference of this triennial series. Previous editions were held in San Antonio (NN2012), Beijing (NN2009), Rio de Janeiro (NN2006) and Moscow (NN2003). NN2015 maintained the general spirit and intentions of this Conference series. This is the second occasion to have this series of the conference in Italy (the first one was held on 1994 in Taormina).

The NN2015 Conference was organized by the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Catania, and by INFN - Laboratori Nazionali del Sud and Sezione di Catania, under the auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).

Catania represented an exceptionally suited venue. From a scientific point of view, Catania hosts one of the oldest Universities in Europe and one of the four National Laboratories of INFN. From a historic, artistic and natural point of view, downtown Catania is registered in the UNESCO World Heritage List owing to its beautiful Baroque buildings, while the nearby Mount Etna is included in same List as one of the world's most active and iconic volcano.

The Conference maintained its general spirit and the intentions of the previous ones. The scientific subjects covered a rather broad range of topics relevant to nucleus-nucleus collisions with special emphasis on applied aspects. The Scientific Program included the following sessions:

- Heavy and Superheavy Elements
- QCD and Hadron Physics
- Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions
- Nuclear Structure
- Nuclear Energy and Applications of Nuclear Science and Technologies
- Reactions and Structure - Unstable Nuclei
- Equation of State of Neutron-Rich Nuclear Matter, Clusters in Nuclei and Nuclear Reactions

- Fusion and Fission
- Nuclear Astrophysics
- New Facilities and Detectors

A total of 360 registered participants from 37 countries attended the conference. Among the participants were a large number of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows for whom special financial support was provided. As in the previous editions, the presented papers were of very high level, often representing breakthrough in the respective research fields.

The keynote talk: “Some selected highlights since NN2012” was given by A. Bracco, NuPECC Chair, and the summary talk by T. Motobayashi, RIKEN.

There were 38 invited talks in the plenary sessions and 58 invited talks in the parallel sessions and 113 oral presentations in the parallel sessions and 34 poster presentations. All the contributions sent by the authors are included in the conference proceedings.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to all participants for their attending and contributions to the success of the Conference and to gratefully acknowledge the International Advisory Committee, Program Committee and Organizing Committee for their support and excellent advices.

Special thanks are due to the Conference Secretariat for the efficient work. Further, we would like to thank the staff and students for their contributions to the preparation and organization of the Conference.

Claudio Spitaleri
Chairman NN2015
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