

Preface

The Sixteenth International Symposium on *Capture Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy and Related Topics* (CGS16) was held on the quiet historical campus of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, located in the heart of the metropolis of Shanghai, from September 18 to 22, 2017.

CGS16 was the sixteenth convention of the series that started in 1969 in Studsvik, Sweden, and continued once every three years in Europe and North America. It was previously held in Petten, The Netherlands (1974); Brookhaven, USA (1978); Grenoble, France (1981); Knoxville, USA (1984); Leuven, Belgium (1987); Asilomar, USA (1990); Fribourg, Switzerland (1993); Budapest, Hungary (1996); Santa Fe, USA (1999); Prague, Czech Republic (2002); South Bend, USA (2005); Cologne, Germany (2008); Guelph, Canada (2011); and Dresden, Germany (2014). For the first time in its history of nearly half a century, the CGS conference moved to Asia.

The CGS conference, being one of the largest series of meetings in nuclear physics, initially focused on topics related to gamma-ray spectroscopy as used broadly in nuclear structure, nuclear reactions, nuclear probes for fundamental physics, nuclear data, and novel techniques and applications. Later it extended the scope to include nuclear astrophysics and interdisciplinary studies. At CGS16, nuclear astrophysics became one of the major subjects.

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) recommended many outstanding speakers, and the Organizing Committee (OC) received many contributed abstracts. The members of the Program Committee (PC) reviewed the abstracts to produce the conference program. Contributed talks were selected from both well-established researchers and the younger generation. In the five-day scientific program, a total of 128 talks were presented in 32 sessions. Female nuclear physicists played notable roles in CGS16; about one quarter of the invited speakers and one quarter of the session chairs were women.

CGS16 attracted in total 164 participants from 22 countries. Some participants were regular attendees of the CGS series, including several previous CGS chairs. Unfortunately, Professor Till von Egidy of TU Munich, who had attended all 15 previous conferences, could not travel this time. Nevertheless, he sent his best wishes for CGS16.

The social program included a welcoming reception on Monday evening in an engaging atmosphere. A half-day excursion on Wednesday afternoon was arranged to visit the traditional Shanghai-style Yu Garden. It followed with a Huangpu River cruise at dusk. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and it rained heavily. Despite that, the gorgeous lights from tall buildings along the banks gave an exciting view. The conference banquet was held on Thursday evening in the SJTU campus restaurant. The distinguished Professor Steve Yates and others gave lovely speeches. Another well-known senior researcher in attendance, Professor Yongshou Chen, was among the first group of Chinese scientists sent to the Niels-Bohr Institute after the Cultural Revolution in China (marking the opening of China to the western world). To show his happiness

with the reunion in China with his foreign friends, Professor Chen brought a con affetto song for the banquet.

In a special lunch meeting with the IAC and PC members on Thursday, Dr. Caterina Michelagnoli represented the Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL) to propose hosting CGS17. After considerable discussion, the decision was made that the next CGS symposium, CGS17, will take place in 2020 in Grenoble, France.

The coordination of CGS16 was a large effort for the Organization Committee. I want to thank all my colleagues and my group members who offered tremendous help to make the symposium successful. In particular, I want to mention our secretary Ms. Gang He, who worked hard during the hot summer prior to the conference to write more than one hundred invitation letters and handled every correspondence. Dr. Surja Ghorui was responsible for creation and maintenance of the CGS16 website, and Dr. Wendell Misch provided the main guide on the website regarding transportation, social activities, and local restaurants and bars. Dr. Yuan Qiu, and Ms. Cuijuan Lv put forth a great effort preparing the booklet for the conference. I am also very thankful to Dr. Jianmin Dong and Dr. Xinle Shang of the Institute of Modern Physics from Lanzhou, who brought four other graduate students to help. All these people offered their assistance during the conference sessions. I should particularly acknowledge our financial sponsors: the *Institute of Modern Physics*; the *Institute of Theoretical Physics*; *Huzhou University*, and the *School of Physics and Astrophysics, SJTU*. The provided funding was mainly used as financial aid for students and some researchers.

Organizing CGS16 was a very special experience for me. For nearly two years leading up to and after the conference, I enjoyed writing hundreds emails to my colleagues and friends, old and new. I deeply appreciate the IAC and PC members, who gave me very valuable advice. I would particularly like to mention the past CGS chairs Ronald Schwengner (CGS15), Paul Garrett (CGS14), and Ani Aprahamian (CGS12). Finally, I want to express my best wishes to our colleagues at ILL who have taken up the torch. I look forward to CGS17 in Grenoble and hope to see all of you there.

Yang Sun, Chair of CGS16
Professor of Physics
School of Physics and Astronomy
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Email: sunyang@sjtu.edu.cn