

FOREWORD

The Nineteenth International Linac Conference (LINAC98) was held at the Fairmont Hotel, Chicago, Illinois on August 23-28, 1998. Four hundred delegates from 13 countries attended the conference. The local organizing work was performed by linac scientists and other support staff from Argonne National Laboratory in association with Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory staff. Seven industrial vendors exhibited their hardware, software, and services during the first two and a half days of the conference.

The first meeting of the 1998 International Organizing Committee (IOC) was held during the U.S. Particle Accelerator Conference in May 1997 in Vancouver, British Columbia, to begin preparations for this conference. The membership of the Committee is listed elsewhere in these proceedings. An unresolved issue that had been raised during the 1996 IOC meeting in Geneva, Switzerland needed to be resolved before the 1998 conference. The issue was whether or not the papers submitted for the conference should be refereed. If papers were going to be refereed, the Program Committee had to be instructed to perform the work of refereeing at the earliest possible time. After lengthy discussion, we agreed that refereed papers have the merit of producing archival proceedings, which is particularly advantageous for younger people trying to establish publication records. However, the present (nonrefereed) practice facilitates a rapid communication of the status of today's technology. It was decided that the benefit of rapid communication outweighs that of refereeing, and so the IOC of the 1998 conference instructed the local organizers to proceed with the conference planning similar to past conferences.

The first meeting of the 1998 Program Committee was held on December 8-9, 1997 at Argonne National Laboratory. The membership of the committee is listed elsewhere in these proceedings. The Program Committee followed the conference tradition of presenting invited papers in plenary sessions each morning, and selected 45 papers to be invited for oral presentation from over 200 nominations. In order to allow presentation of a greater number of invited papers, the Committee selected some invited papers to be 30 minutes long and others 20 minutes long. Poster sessions were held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons, with each poster session preceded by twelve 5-minute oral poster sessions. These short oral presentations without "question and comment" periods are part of the conference tradition and are intended to draw the audience's attention to particular papers. The Program Committee selected 36 oral poster presentations from 400 abstracts submitted by contributing authors. The complete program list can be found elsewhere in these proceedings. Many delegates remarked that the conference program was excellent—the speakers were good, the program was well balanced, and the topics were timely. These praises are the result of the hard work put forth by the Program Committee.

The conference began with a reception on the evening of Sunday, August 23rd. Over 300 people came to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

The traditional Wednesday afternoon conference outing was held on August 26th. One of the purposes of the outing is to provide the opportunity for smaller group interactions among the participants. The first stop was at the Chicago Botanic Garden, where participants were free to roam the grounds and enjoy the gardens. Indeed, a large number of threesomes and fivesomes were seen walking and talking to each other. Before leaving the Garden, we enjoyed a carillon recital by University of Chicago Carillonner Wylie Crawford. The recital program can be found elsewhere in these proceedings.

Next, participants were transported to Ravinia Festival, the summer home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). After a barbecue dinner served under tents on the Ravinia grounds, attendees enjoyed a concert by the world-famous CSO with equally renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The program consisted of selections from Dvorak, Bloch, and Strauss. Needless to say, it was a memorable musical event. A copy of the program is contained in these proceedings.

The conference banquet was held on Thursday evening, August 27th, at the Mid America Club on the 80th floor of the Amoco Building. It was a clear evening with very good visibility that afforded a wonderful view of downtown Chicago and the surrounding area. The background music during the social hour and the after dinner entertainment were provided by the Chicago Hot Six, a jazz band under the leadership of Roy Rubinstein, a high-energy physicist at Fermilab.

The conference proceedings were posted on the Web site three weeks after the close of the conference. Some dozen people worked in the Proceedings Office, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge two colleagues from KEK, Yong Ho Chin and Kazuyuki Nigorikawa, who provided valuable assistance.

The second meeting of the International Organizing Committee, held the evening of August 25th, included the status report of this conference, a report by the organizers of the 2000 Conference to be held in Monterey, California, and the selection of the 2002 Conference site. The Committee decided to invite the delegation from Pohang, Korea to organize the 2002 Conference.

The chair takes this opportunity to thank the members of the International Organizing Committee, the Program Committee, and the Local Organizing Committee for their efforts toward making this conference a success.

Yanglai Cho
LINAC98 Conference Chair