

Preface

– For Poster Presentations –

The Eighth Asia-Pacific International Conference on Gravitation and Astrophysics (ICGA8) was held at Nara Women's University, Nara, Japan, from 29 August to 1 September, 2007.

As its title shows, this was the eighth in a series of conferences which have been held every two years since 1993 in the Asia-Pacific region; China, Korea, Russia, Taiwan and Japan. This time it had a couple of special aspects: The year 2007 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Hideki Yukawa, the father of the strong interaction and the first Nobel Prize laureate in physics from East Asia. We therefore decided to organize the conference as part of the celebration as well. At the same time, taking advantage of the fact that the conference was held at Nara Women's University, we used this occasion to promote women researchers in our field.

We had about 150 participants, including many young physicists, postdocs and graduate students. There were 28 oral presentations and 55 poster presentations with 3 minute talks. All of them were well prepared and nicely presented. On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to thank all the participants for their active participation to the conference.

In these proceedings, the poster presentations are included. The oral presentations are published in a separate volume, Progress of Theoretical Physics Supplement, No. 172.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their financial support: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Asia Pacific Center for Theoretical Physics (APCTP), Inoue Foundation for Science, Epson International Scholarship Foundation and Nara Women's University. We would also like to thank the staff and students of Nara Women's University, especially Ms. Maiko Kuwata, for their warm hospitality and efficient management. Without their help, this conference would not have been so successful. Special thanks are due to Professor Kenji Kume, the President of Nara Women's University, for his generous support.

The conference site, Nara, is a historic city, which was the capital of Japan during the eighth century. We are proud that the participants had been able to not only enjoy the conference scientifically but also touch Japanese culture in this historic and beautiful city.

Finally, in view of the excellent quality of all the poster presentations, we are very pleased that Nara Women's University has agreed to publish this special issue for the proceedings of the ICGA8 poster presentations.

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