

POEM 2008 makes its debut a success

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On November 24–27th 2008, the first Photonics and Optoelectronics Meetings (POEM 2008), organized by Wuhan National Laboratory for Optoelectronics (WNLO), was held in Wuhan Science and Technology Convention and Exhibition Center, Wuhan, China.

The POEM 2008, in conjunction with the 8th International Symposium on Optical Storage/2008 International Workshop on Information Data Storage (ISOS/IWIDS 2008), and the International Conference on Photonics and Imaging in Biology and Medicine (PIBM 2008), consists of a plenary session, six parallel sessions, industry seminars, technology and talent exchange, and a consulting seminar of developing strategy. It has four conference chairs: Dr. Chaohui Ye, Director of WNLO and member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); Dr. Bingkun Zhou, Professor of Tsinghua University, member of CAS; Dr. Britton Chance, Academician of six countries, Professor of the University of Pennsylvania and 2008 Friendship Award Winner of the Chinese Government; and Dr. Victor V. Apollonov, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Director of A. M. Prohorov General Physics Institute.

There are 12 academicians from home and abroad attending the conference including Dr. Aaron Ciechanover, 2004 winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry, Dr. Bernd Wilhelmi, member of Germany Leopoldina and the former Soviet Union Academy of Sciences, Dr. Paul Ching-wu Chu, president of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the U.S. chief scientist in physics of the University of Houston, academician of three countries, etc.

On November 24th, about 10 national and local governmental leaders attended the plenary session and 5 world-renown experts, including Dr. Aaron Ciechanover, Dr. Victor V. Apollonov, Dr. Dieter Stefan Jäger, Prof. Ian H. White, and Prof. Xicheng Zhang gave presentations. Also, Dr. Paul Ching-wu Chu was invited to give a talk on “The spirit of science and practice” and Prof. Tsutomu Miyasaka, Director of the Graduate School of Engineering of Tooin University of Yokohama gave a report in WNLO. Over 600 representatives from more than 10 countries attended the conference including 30 people from abroad.

To promote the construction and development of the WNLO, strengthen the connection between the WNLO and “Wuhan · Optics Valley of China (WOVC)”, the “Consulting Seminar of Developing Strategy on WOVC and WNLO” was held in the afternoon of November 24th. Well-known scholars, business executives and department leaders from home and abroad discussed the overall plan and present status of the industry development of WOVC, the interactive relationship between WOVC and WNLO and layout of the developing strategy of WNLO. During the meeting, a cooperation agreement on the Wuhan East Lake High-Tech Development Zone supporting the development of WNLO was signed.

The conference mainly focused on six topics — fiber optical communication and sensors, laser technology and applications, optical storage and new storage technology, optoelectronic devices and integration, Tera-Hertz science and technology, and photonics and imaging in biology and medicine. Rich content of oral and invited presentations, plenary discussion, short courses, hot topics, best student award and student-focused poster session were presented on the conference. Latest achievements on the frontier of the field are published on the conference. On November 25th, experts of optical data storage attended a new product’s release meeting — Next-generation Versatile Disk (NVD). A new generation red light high-definition products from WOVC will be on the market for sale soon.

734 papers including 348 oral presentations and 386 posters were contributed. At noon of November 27th, after a

rigorous assessment, 18 Outstanding Paper Award winners were selected. The conference chairs issued the certificates and bonuses personally to encourage them. Excellent papers in POEM 2008 were recommended to be published in *Frontiers of Optoelectronics in China* and the *Journal of Innovative Optical Health Sciences*.

POEM 2008 received great praises for its elaborate planning, rich contents, and high-level invited speakers with great influence. The conference introduced some of the latest technologies in the field and industries and attracted a lot of attention. Participants remark that the reports of invited experts, hot topic discussions, students' posters and paper awarding were very attractive. They appreciated this valuable and beneficial opportunity of exchanging ideas with top photonics and optoelectronics experts.