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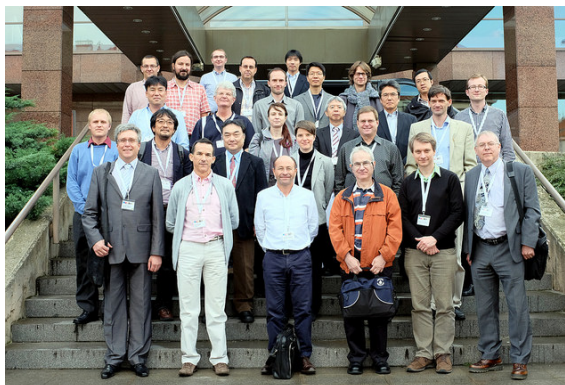
Preface

It is my pleasure to write this preface to the first volume of *Proceedings of the Advanced Architectures in Photonics*, which publish oral and poster contributions from the symposium series Advanced Architectures on Photonics (AAP) held in September 21–24, 2014 in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic.

AAP symposium is a new concept of topically focused meeting organized by young enthusiastic researchers, mainly graduates from the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic. The aim of the symposium is to bring together well-recognized distinguished scientists from the field of optics, photonics and functional materials, and early-career researchers and Ph.D. students in friendly and productive three days, at the current event, atmosphere of less than hundred attendees. I was personally thrilled with the announcement of the symposium especially, not intentionally, that the AAP was established by my recent Ph.D. students, whose driving force and effort made the AAP possible.

The young spirit had brought vibrant atmosphere to the symposium, and the organizers managed to invite their collaborators, friends and colleagues from all around the world; mentioning just the plenary talks given by Prof. Y. Ohishi, Prof. C. Lopez and Prof. S. Matsui. The main focus of the symposium was on glasses, specifically chalcogenide glasses, and structures operating in infrared spectral region. We could therefore enjoy talks about state-of-the-art supercontinuum generation in glasses; preparation of glassy fibres and wires for sensing; innovative techniques of nanometre-scale imprinting reaching 20 nm lateral resolution and being adopted by industry; preparation of 3-D photonic crystals made of colloidal particles; and last but not least biosensors based on plasmonic nanostructures.

The next symposium will be hosted by Dr. Spyros Yannopoulos (FORTH/ICE-HT) and will take place on Mykonos Island, Greece, in late September, 2016. I wish the organizers fruitful event, with increasing number of participating young researchers and invited speakers, keeping high scientific standards as those established at the first meeting in Prague. I am personally very much looking forward to the next meeting. It is my hope that AAP will become world-wide recognized event attracting the best science-leading experts and young people, without their minds science would not be the same.



AAP Symposium 2014, Prague.

Prof. Tomas Wagner
Chairman, AAP 2014