

Preface

The DAE–BRNS Ninth Workshop on High Energy Physics Phenomenology (WHEPP-9) was held at the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar during January 3–14, 2006. The first workshop of this series was organized by TIFR, Mumbai in 1989. Since then workshops of this kind are being organized almost every alternate year. The last workshop took place at IIT, Mumbai in January 2004.

WHEPP is an international workshop with a particular emphasis on working group activities. One particular aspect of these workshops is the interaction between the theorists and the experimentalists. WHEPP also covers interdisciplinary areas. By now WHEPP has become the main conference that is organized by Indian phenomenological community as a whole.

During the workshop, review talks and talks on areas of current interest are presented. As in earlier workshops, the major activities of this workshop also revolved around four working groups. The working groups were: (1) collider physics, (2) neutrino and astroparticle physics, (3) flavor physics and model building, (4) QCD and QGP. Activities of the working groups involved talks, intensive interaction and collaborative works. Working group coordinators led these activities. Such activities have led to numerous fruitful collaborations. On the last day of the workshop, one coordinator from each working group presented a summary of the activities. The talks and other details about the WHEPP-9 are available at the website <http://whepp9.iopb.res.in>.

A significant number of speakers have contributed to current WHEPP proceedings being brought out in two consecutive issues of *Pramana*. We express our thanks to all of them for taking time to write their contributions. In particular, we would like to thank Prof. G Altarelli for giving inaugural talk and summarizing the current status of the Standard Model and alternatives to go beyond it. We are also grateful to him for taking time to interact with the students and performing many ceremonial tasks at short notices.

Starting with the last WHEPP, this series is now being funded by the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS). We extend our sincere thanks to BRNS for the sponsorship. WHEPP-9 also received partial funding from the host organization, the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar. We are grateful to the Institute for its generous contribution.

Almost all members of the National Organizing Committee and Working Group Coordinators played considerable role in putting together the academic program of the workshop. We thank them for all the hard work and timely help. We would like to express our special gratitude for the generosity and going beyond the call of duty to Prof. S Uma Sankar and Prof. Brajesh Choudhury. Prof. S Uma Sankar was generous in sharing with us his experience in organizing the previous WHEPP and helped us in innumerable ways. Prof. Brajesh Choudhury, though stayed very far from Bhubaneswar, played an important role in not only determining the academic part of the conference, but also helped us with more mundane aspects of the organization. He was *de facto* a member of the Local Organizing Committee. We thank Prof. Rajiv Gvai for his timely advice in securing BRNS sponsorship and for other contributions to the WHEPP-9. Prof. D P Roy, Prof. Saurabh Rindani

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and Prof. Kajari Mazumdar also played a significant role in molding the program of the workshop. We are grateful to them for their contributions. We would also like to thank Prof. Raghu Rangarajan, Prof. Srubabati Goswami and Prof. Subhendra Mohanty for their help during the workshop. We thank the *Pramana* editors in agreeing to publish the proceedings in *Pramana – J. Phys.*

Members of the Local Organizing Committee were liberal with their help, in particular Prof. Sudipta Mukherji who designed the web page initially. Thanks are also due to Mr Anindya Biswas who designed the logo for the WHEPP-9 and Mr Deepankar Dash who developed the WHEPP-9 website.

The organization of this workshop would not have been possible without the active support, help and hard work of the administrative and technical staff of the Institute. We are grateful to Prof. R K Choudhary, the Director of the Institute at the time of the WHEPP-9 for his unequivocal support. It made our life a bit easier.

For administrative and technical support before and during the workshop, we would also like to thank the registrar Mr C B Mishra and his team, the computer-system administrator Bishnu Parija and his team, and Mr S C Rath and his team. For the day-to-day management during the workshop, we would like to thank Mr Dayanidhi Pradhan, Mr Duryodhan Sahoo, and Mr Sk Safatulla.

Last but not the least, the credit for any success of the conference goes to the participants. We thank all of them for attending the workshop. We very much hope that this workshop was enjoyable and fruitful to them.

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(Guest Editors)