

Foreword

Statistical physics is a fundamental branch of physics, like classical or quantum physics. Phenomena in many different disciplines of science are described and understood in terms of the established laws and principles of statistical physics. Over the last several decades, statistical physics is being applied to topics that usually do not come under the purview of the conventional statistical physics such as biology, soft matters, networks, economics besides physics of materials. These branches of research are commonly referred as multidisciplinary topics of statistical physics. The International Workshop and Conference on Statistical Physics Approaches to Multidisciplinary Problems was targeted to discuss these problems in particular. The objective of this international workshop and conference was to bring together scientists working in multidisciplinary topics of statistical physics and provide a platform for interaction as well as share their knowledge and experiences with colleagues and students.

We would sincerely like to thank the Editor and the Editorial Board of *Pramana – J. Phys.* for kindly agreeing to publish the proceedings of this International Workshop and Conference held during 7–13 January 2008 at the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati as a special issue of the Journal.

We are thankful to Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati; S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata; Centre for Applied Mathematics and Computational Sciences, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata; The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai for jointly organizing this event. We are indebted to the members of the advisory board for their constant guidance and valuable suggestions in planning this workshop and conference. We are thankful to the national organizing committee for their support, help and for sharing responsibilities.

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