

Fourth Joint Meeting of the Nuclear Physics Divisions of the American Physical Society and the Physical Society of Japan

TAKAHARU OTSUKA
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



Fig. 1: An overview of the venue. The meeting took place in a building to the left behind tropical trees. The mountain in the back is Mt. Mauna Loa, and the Pacific Ocean is to the right.

The Fourth Joint Meeting of the Nuclear Physics Divisions of the American Physical Society and the Physical Society of Japan took place at Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii on the 7th-11th of October, 2014. This meeting, HAW14, extended the highly successful series of joint meetings that originated in 2001, and continued in 2005 and 2009. Shoji Nagamiya was among those who initiated this series of joint meetings. The co-chair on the U.S. side was Richard Milner of MIT, and the co-chair on Japanese side was Takaharu Otsuka.

Fig. 1 shows the venue, an extremely relaxing place on a tropical coast. In fact, all meetings of this series have been held on one of the Hawaiian Islands, as Hawaii is geographically located in-between Japan and the contiguous United States.

These meetings serve to foster cooperation, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among nuclear physicists from Japan, the U.S., and other Pacific Rim countries. Further, they provide an unusual opportunity for students from Japan and the U.S. to meet, interact, and discuss their visions of careers in nuclear physics. HAW14 attracted about 1150 registrants, of which about two thirds were from the U.S. and about one third were from Japan. There were also 14 abstracts from Korea, which were only fewer than those from Canada.

HAW14 opened on Tuesday October 7th with ten workshops that attracted more than 600 participants. The subjects of the workshops spanned research frontiers across the entire field of nuclear physics and included approximately 120 speakers. On Tuesday evening, all



Fig. 2: Plenary session by Sekimura with about one thousand attendees.

conference attendees gathered for a welcome reception, where many old friends and colleagues from both countries met.

On Wednesday morning, formal meeting activities began with a plenary session that highlighted some important activities and issues of current interest to nuclear physicists in the U.S. and Japan. Nicholas Samios described the major impact of the highly successful RIKEN-BNL Research Center, a model for international collaboration. Hiroyoshi Sakurai presented the exciting science being carried out at the world's leading radioactive-ion beam facility RIBF in Japan. Robert McKeown provided an overview of the recent discoveries and future prospects in electroweak nuclear physics. Naoto Sekimura, who is a nuclear engineering professor at the University of Tokyo, closed the plenary session with a presentation on the accident report of the Atomic Energy Society of Japan on the Fukushima Daiichi accident, as shown in Fig. 2.

The 70 parallel sessions of HAW14 took place from Wednesday evening through Saturday afternoon. There

were 31 mini-symposia and 39 contributed sessions. The subjects covered all areas of experimental and theoretical nuclear physics. The parallel sessions took place in the morning and evening to allow the afternoons to be free for other activities, such as community meetings.

There were a variety of relevant meetings; the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics (of APS) and the Physical Society of Japan hosted a panel session on Wednesday on gender issues. Undergraduate students were invited to attend the 17th annual Conference Experience for Undergraduates Program (poster session) with 132 undergraduate participants, including 10 from Japan on Friday. Representatives of universities hosted an informal graduate school information session for interested students attending HAW14 on Saturday.

A Luau banquet with Hawaiian attractions drew more than 600 in attendance on Friday evening.

The program for HAW14 was organized by the DNP/JPS Program Committee under the chairmanship of John Wilkerson. Ani Aprahamian and Hirokazu Tamura of the HAW14 Organizing Committee organized the workshops. The overall conference logistics for HAW14 was the responsibility of Complete Conference Coordinators, Inc. DNP Treasurer/Secretary Benjamin Gibson played a central role in all aspects of the organization and smooth running of HAW14.

HAW14 was generously supported by relevant communities, institutes and the federal funding agencies in Japan and the U.S. Many attendees agreed that HAW14 was very successful in all respects, and that this series of unique meetings will continue with more success. The author expresses his sincere gratitude to those who have contributed to the organization of HAW14 from both countries, particularly U.S. co-chair, Richard Milner.



Takaharu Otsuka is a professor of the Department of Physics, the University of Tokyo, and the director of the Center for Nuclear Study of the same university. He is also an adjunct professor of the Michigan State University. After receiving a D.Sci from the University of Tokyo, he worked at the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute with a leave to Los Alamos National Laboratory for about two years, before joining the University of Tokyo in 1987. His research field is theoretical nuclear physics.