

## ***PREFACE***

This volume forms the Proceedings of the *XX Conference on Applied Crystallography* held in Wisła, Poland from 11 to 14 September 2006. The goal of the Conference was to provide a forum where researchers from different areas could exchange their last achievements in the field of structural studies applied to materials utilized in industrial practice. Emphasis has been paid on the methods and techniques used in structural studies as well as on the structure and properties of different materials including metals and alloys, ceramics, polymers, quasicrystals, nanomaterials and thin films.

Ten consecutive plenary and oral session and three poster sessions have demonstrated the present state of art and progress in this interdisciplinary field. Thirty two papers were presented during the plenary and oral sessions and further sixty were discussed during the poster sessions. After the reviewing process 64 papers were accepted for publication in this issue of the *Journal of Solid State Phenomena*.

Many distinguished specialists from different countries attended the Conference. Among them were Prof. Prof. T. Massalski, J. Fiala, V. Favre – Nicolin, A. Fitch, C. Giacovazzo, F. Izumi, G. Kostorz, A. Le Bail, P. Scardi, W. Neumann, J.P. Mornirolli, K. Sheerschmidt, W. Steurer and others. One hundred and ten participants came from eighteen countries. The Organising Committee paid special care to enable young scientists to participate in the Conference. This would not be possible without the financial support from different institutions and societies. Their support has been very much appreciated. Special thanks are due to the International Union of Crystallography and Polish Academy of Sciences.

The conference was accompanied by two Summer Schools and a Workshop. The Summer School on Polycrystalline Structure Determination - led by Prof. C. Giacovazzo, the Summer School on Stress/strain Determination by TEM Methods – led by Prof. W. Neumann and the Workshop on Strain and Crystalline Defect Determination by X-ray Methods –led by Prof. T. Ungar - provided young scientists with theoretical background and practical tutorials on these specific crystallography problems. I would like to express here my gratitude to the event directors and tutors for their work in preparing and leading the meetings.

The scientific success of this conference was first of all a result of the scientific motivation of its participants. Therefore I would like to thank all participants for their contributions. I would also like to thank the chairmen, who directed the programme in an efficient way, the international advisory board for the assistance in the Conference organization. Finally, I would like to thank all the team members for their efficiency and enthusiasm to make this Conference the success.

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