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*P*REFACE

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The 20th International Conference on Ultra-Relativistic Nucleus-Nucleus Collisions, "Quark Matter-2008", was held in Jaipur, the Pink City of India, from February 4-10, 2008. Organizing the Quark Matter-2008 in India itself indicates the international recognition of the growing Indian contribution to the field of heavy-ion physics, which was initiated and nurtured by Bikash Sinha, Chair of the conference.

The conference was inaugurated by the Honor'able Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje followed by the key note address by Professor Carlo Rubbia. Several important topics related to the physics of heavy-ion collisions, like Global and Collective dynamics, Jet production, Electromagnetic probes, QCD phase diagram, Correlations and fluctuations, Initial conditions and thermalization, and new and future experimental facilities and detectors were intensely deliberated.

The conference was enriched by the presence of an unprecedented number of participants representing 31 countries across the globe. Special attention was made to the poster presentations. About 300 posters were presented, out of which two poster were selected by a panel of eminent scientists for Nuclear Physics A-Young Scientists Award. Monika Sharma and P S Saumia received the awards in the poster category and Andre Mischke and Torsten Dahms have been conferred the awards for oral presentations. We congratulate all the awardees.

Members of the International Advisory Committee and the Organizing Committee played a vital role in the success of the conference. Their efforts are very much appreciated. We also thank all sponsors of this conference for their generous contributions, which made the rich scientific discussions possible.

Quark Matter-2008 was financially supported by: Air Liquide (New Delhi), Board of Research Nuclear Sciences (Mumbai), Bose Institute (Kolkata), Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton), Danfysik, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi), Elsevier B V (Amsterdam), Government of Rajasthan, European Organization for Nuclear Research (Geneva), Gesellschaft fur Schwerionenforschung (Darmstadt), Hewlett-Packard, Indian Institute of Astrophysics (Bangalore), Institute of Physics (Bhubaneswar), IOP Publishing (Bristol), Merint Infrastructure Ltd., Rajasthan Travel Service (Jaipur), RIKEN-BNL Research Centre (Upton), Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (Kolkata), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai), The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Chennai) and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (Kolkata).

We sincerely thank Indian Journal of Physics for agreeing to publish the proceedings of the poster contributions of the conference.

We hope the contents of these proceedings will be a useful reference to several exciting discussions during the dedicated poster session at the conference.

JAN-E-ALAM

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