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NEWS

August 12－15, 2002 International String Theory Conference at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China

The International String Theory Conference was successfully held on August 12－15, 2002 at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou China, was suggested and organized by Prof. S.－T. Yau (Harvard University), the director of the center of Mathematical Sciences at Zhejiang University. About 100 participants from all over the world attended the conference. Among them, there were two winners of Fields Medal Prize: S.－T. Yau and E. Witten (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University), and a number of distinguished professors, academicians of sciences, and outstanding scientists from worldwide first rank universities and institutes.

Ideas from string theory have comprised one of the mainstreams of the developments in mathematics since the late 1980s. The conference aimed to provide an opportunity to promote the developments of research in string theory and mathematical aspects in string theory, and is intended to create a friendly, free environment to communicate the latest developments of string theory and its related fields.

The chair of scientific committee is Prof. Shing-tung Yau, and the chair of organizing committee is Prof. Shu-xing Chen. Eleven plenary speakers gave one－hour lectures. They addressed the latest developments and frontiers in string theory, proposed various interesting, challenging questions for future research. Speakers and titles of their lectures are:

Prof. E. Witten (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University): Easing into QFT; Prof. S. Hawking (University of Cambridge): M－Theory and Cosmology; Prof. D. Gross (Institute of Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara): Perspectives on String Theory; Prof. A. Strominger (Jefferson Physical laboratory, Harvard University): Spacelike Branes; Prof. C. Nappi (Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University): Strings and Non－communicativity; Prof. P. Candelas (Mathematical Institute, Oxford University): Rational Points of Calabi－Yau Manifolds; Prof. E. D'Hoker (Department of Physics and Astronomy, UCLA): Two－loop Superstring; Prof. D. Phong (Department of Mathematics, Columbia University): Supersymmetric Gauge Theories, Symplectic Forms, and Integrable Models; Prof. S. Ferrara (CERT, Switzerland): Spontaneously Broken Supergravity in String and M－Theory; Prof. T. Eguchi (Department of physics, University of Tokyo): CFT Analysis of Manifolds of Special Holonomy; Prof. G. Gibbons (Center for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge): Some Recent Work on G-2 and Spin(7) Metrics in M－Theory.

In three 45－minute sections on Algebraic aspects of string theory, Geometric aspects of string theory and Duality, eleven invited lecturers presented their recent research results and works.

The conference attracted not only mathematicians, scholars from many countries and regions in the world, but also many graduates of Zhejiang University and other universities. There is no doubt that the conference will strongly influence many young scholars and graduate students and will motivate their interest in string theory The conference is resumes on August 17－19 at the Institute of Theoretical Physics in Beijing.

Report by Dai Jia-ling