XXII Symposium WILGA 2008
Web Engineering and Advanced Applications of Photonic and Electronic Systems

Friday 30 May 2008, WILGA, Warsaw University of Technology Resort; there are sitting (l to r): dr Robert Nietużyć – IPJ Święk; Grzegorz Kasprzycz – CERN and ISE PW; Tomasz Pławski – Thomas Jefferson Laboratory, Newport News, VA, USA; dr Michał Borecki (standing), IMiO PW; prof. R.Romaniuk – ISE PW, WILGA Symposium Chair; prof. T.Morawski – IR PW, palindromist; Katarzyna Rapacka, SPECTROPOL; dr J.Kalenik – IMIO PW; Dominik Rybka – ISE PW and IPJ Święk, Chair of the Organization Committee of WILGA 2008 Symposium.

Sunday 1 June 2008, WILGA, there are sitting (l to r): prof. Andrzej W.Domański – Treasurer of the Photonics Society of Poland PSP [photonics.pl], Faculty of Physics WUT, SPIE Fellow; prof Brian Culshaw – SPIE President 2007, Univ. of Strathclyde, Glasgow; dr R.Kossowski (standing) – WUT; Michał Ramotowski (standing) – ISE PW; Aneta Michalkiewicz (standing) – SPIE Student Chapter Coordinator; prof. Allan Boardman – Univ. of Salford, SPIE&OSA Fellow; prof. Ryszard S.Romaniuk – WUT, SPIE Fellow; Krisinda Plenkovich – SPIE Director of Education and Community Services, SPIE Headquarters, Bellingham, WA, USA [spie.org]; Tina Kidger – Kidger Optics Associates [www.kidger.com]; dr Emery L.Moore – SPIE President 1990 [elmronics.com]; prof Tomasz R.Woliński – President of the Photonics Society of Poland, SPIE Fellow; Faculty of Physics WUT, Tomasz Pławski – Jefferson Lab., USA.
During the days of 29th May till 1st June, in WILGA near Warsaw, there was held an annual Symposium on Web Engineering and Advanced Applications of Photonic and Electronic Systems. The Symposium was held this year for the first time under the auspices of a newly established Photonics Society of Poland PSP [www.photonics.pl] and cooperating organizations – Polish Committee of Optoelectronics PKOpto, Association of Polish Electrical Engineers SEP [www.sep.org.pl] and Section of Optoelectronics, Committee of Electronics and Telecommunications KEIT, Polish Academy of Sciences PAN [keit.pan.pl].

The Symposium is held twice a year: during the last week of May in WILGA and during the next to the last weekend of January in Warsaw. This year Symposium is the eleventh meeting in WILGA Resort owned by Warsaw University of Technology. The first Symposium of this series was organized at the Faculty of Electronics and Information Technologies of WUT eleven years ago in January 1998. The second was held in WILGA in May 1998. The WILGA Symposia were organized under the wings of IEEE Poland Section, IEEE Region 8 Student Activities and SPIE Poland Chapter (transferred to Photonics Society of Poland in 2008). Since several years, the WILGA Symposia are international.

During these eleven years of WILGA Symposium continuity, the number of participants, mainly young researchers, reached over 3500. There were published 12 volumes of Proceedings of SPIE in the USA. These volumes contain around 1000 research and technical papers. In parallel, there were published together a few hundred papers in the national and international journals, including the ones indexed by the ISI in Philadelphia. The more than a decade technical achievement of WILGA Symposium is probably one of the biggest in comparison with similar international meetings of young researchers in this country. The WILGA Symposium is filling a few roles: is a very current digest of the young science, is an absolutely free debating and comparison platform for young researchers, is a good pattern for these ones starting their research and/or academic career, is a place where the form and contents of more advanced young researchers is friendly, politely but accurately polished, it is equally a place of meeting for the tutors and mentors of young researchers, Ph.D. and M.Sc. students, etc.

The organizers of WILGA Symposium are M.Sc. and Ph.D. students of Warsaw University of Technology who realize their theses with the PERG/ELHEP Research Group in the Institute of Electronic Systems as well as students associated in SPIE Student Branch of WUT, OSA, IEEE and in particular IEEE-LEOS. A chair of WILGA 2008 Organization Committee was Mr Dominik Rybka, a Ph.D. student of ISE PW and simultaneously an employee of the Soltan Institute for Nuclear Problems in Świerk (IPJ) [www.ipj.gov.pl].

The WILGA 2008 Symposium has gathered more than 150 participants out of a number of technical universities from around this country. More than 100 research and technical papers were presented. The participants were mainly M.Sc. and Ph.D. students, arriving to WILGA alone or with their tutors and mentors. In particular, WILGA is a kind of Ph.D. work digest realized by young researchers in the areas of web engineering, photonics, apparatus for high energy physics experiments. WILGA 2008 has gathered, among others, representatives of the following technical universities: Warsaw, Białystok, Lublin, Gdańsk, Poznań, Łódź, Lublin.

The topical sessions of WILGA 2008 Symposium concerned mainly the following subjects: computer simulations in electronics and electrical engineering, construction of photonics and electronics apparatus for high energy physics experiments, optical fiber optoelectronics, European program WARMER – water resources protection in Europe, coherent and non-coherent optical tomography, design and construction of optimal learning systems, design of
free electron laser machine, European programs - CARE, EuCARD, European XFEL, ILC, photonic optical fibers filled with liquid crystals, optoelectronic sensors, web engineering, and in particular development of wiki standard, etc.

Symposium proceedings will be published traditionally as a volume of Proc. SPIE. Some of the papers will be published in Electronics and Telecommunications Quarterly by PAS and in Elektronika monthly journal by SEP. A group of selected papers is usually published in international journals indexed by ISI.

Certain changes in Symposium organization and publication of proceedings are forced by the changes in the research ministry regulations concerning the list of categorization points for particular publications and journals. For example, the SPIE Proceedings used to have 4 points on the previous list while now they have only 2 points. This is in spite of the fact that Proc. SPIE are very broadly indexed, much broader in comparison to other similar publications. One can estimate that Proc. SPIE are around several % of the serious world publications in the field of photonics. Till today, there are around 8000 volumes of Proc. SPIE published and under preparations. Each volume has around 60 papers what gives together the biggest world publications database in photonics of around half a million papers. The national community of photonics, represented by the Photonics Society of Poland will apply to the ministry to reconsider the evaluation of Proc. SPIE for more categorization points. More than 200 Proc. SPIE volumes were published as a result of the initiatives of SPIE Poland Chapter, from 1986.

Symposium was opened complementarily by the person writing these words, because WILGA is a Symposium organized by students for students. Faculty members present during the Symposium are only guests and do only a topical supervision of students activities and review students papers. The opening presentation for WILGA Symposium usually concerns a summary of activities during the last academic year and plans for the next academic year of the young Research Group PERG/ELHEP ISE WUT. The Group consists of a few tens of young researchers active in web engineering and advanced applications of photonics and electronics systems.

A tradition of WILGA Symposium is that one of the keynote presentations is devoted to art, literature or humanities. Professor Tadeusz Morawski from the Institute of Radioelectronics WUT presented his research advances and literary work on palindromes. The presentation was triggered by the fifth book on palindromes written by this author. Finishing his very interesting presentation prof. T.Morawski, who is the most famous Polish palindromist and one of the authors who wrote the biggest numbers of solid palindromes in the world, was dedicating and signing a couple of copies of his books presented to the public.

A special session was organized on Sunday 1 June. The session was combined with a visit of the official delegation from SPIE headquarters – The International Society for Optical Engineering. The visit in Wilga was a part of SPIE participation in the Inaugural Symposium of the Photonics Society of Poland after its transformation from SPIE – Poland Chapter. The Symposium was held on 30-31 May at the Faculty of Physics, WUT, and the part of this Inaugural Symposium was this special students session in Wilga held on 1 June. The main part of the PSP Inauguration Symposium was held on Saturday 31 May and gathered more than 100 persons, representatives of research, technical, academia, business, governmental and other communities related to the field of photonics from the whole country. A number of the WILGA Symposium participants took part in the PSP Inauguration Symposium and vice versa.
During the Sunday session of WILGA Symposium there was organized a competition for the best student paper presentation. The competition was sponsored by SPIE. The results were as follows: Aleksandra Czarpla, Wydział Fizyki PW, Long period fiber gratings with liquid crystals; Andrzej Cichocki, PERG/ELHEP ISE PW, Astronomous power supply controller for MXGS; Krzysztof Iwaszczyk, Wydział Fizyki PW, Plane wave method for photonic liquid crystal fibers modelling. Sincere congratulations for the winners.

Sunday competitive session during WILGA 21008 Symposium with participation of SPIE Headquarters representatives. Professor Brian Culshaw from the Strathclyde University in Glasgow presents the SPIE awards for the best presenting students.

After the best student paper award ceremony a business meeting between representatives of SPIE and PSP was organized. There were debated a number of items concerning cooperation, like: functioning of SPIE Student Chapters, signing a Memorandum of Understanding between SPIE and PSP, organization of common meetings, common publications, building a new rapid internet publication under the title Photonics Letters [www.photonics.pl/PL].

The next XXIV Symposium WILGA 2009 is planned, as usual traditionally during the last week of May or on 25-31.05.2009. The January edition of WILGA 2009 Symposium is planned on 23-25 January 2009 at the Faculty of Electronics and Information Technology, WUT. The information about the WILGA Symposium is available at the following web page: http://wilga.ise.pw.edu.pl. All contacts with WILGA organizers are available through the email address: photonics@ise.pw.edu.pl. The WILGA Symposium organizers heartily invite young researchers and their tutors/mentors, working in the area of Internet engineering and advanced applications of photonics and electronics systems

Professor Ryszard S. Romaniuk  (R.Romaniuk@ise.pw.edu.pl)
Warsaw University of Technology, Institute of Electronic Systems