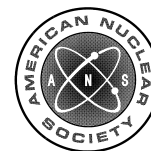


COMMENTS



Continuing a tradition, we are pleased to publish the *Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Open Magnetic Systems for Plasma Confinement* in this issue of *Transactions of Fusion Science and Technology (Trans. FS&T)*, a supplement to the journal *Fusion Science and Technology*.

The Sixth International Conference on Open Magnetic Systems for Plasma Confinement (OS2006) was held in Tsukuba, Japan, from July 17 to July 21, 2006. We express our thanks to Prof. T. Cho (chair) and the other members of the International Program Committee, who were responsible for the scientific program and the selection and organization of the papers for the proceedings. Special thanks are due Dr. H. Hojo (OS2006 publication chair) for his assistance in interfacing with the International Program Committee and the authors for putting this collection together.

The publications from the past (second through fifth) conferences in this series are as follow:

- OS1998 (second): *Trans. FS&T*, Vol. 35, Number 1T (1999);
- OS2000 (third): *Trans. FS&T*, Vol. 39, Number 1T (2001);
- OS2002 (fourth): *Trans. FS&T*, Vol. 43, Number 1T (2003);
- OS2004 (fifth): *Trans. FS&T*, Vol. 47, Number 1T (2005).

The worldwide basic research program on open systems continues to show steady progress, and much of this progress is reflected in the papers presented and published in this *Trans. FS&T*. Traditional topics covered include a number of basic plasma and engineering issues, along with recent results from mirror experiments, mirror-based neutron sources and reactors, field-reversed configurations, and space propulsion. OS2006 also included new topics related to atomic and molecular databases and plasma spectroscopy, and the effects of potential and electric fields on burning plasmas were also strongly welcomed and widely received as special session topics.

Fusion Science and Technology is pleased to be recognized as a “home” for important and informative publications in this area. We look forward to continuing this tradition for future meetings in this series from OS2008, which will be held in Korea. We extend our appreciation to the sponsors for their support, the organizing committee for assistance, the reviewers for their effort, and the authors for their work.

Nermin A. Uckan