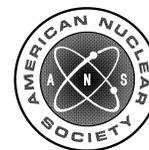


COMMENTS



Continuing a tradition, we are pleased to publish the *Proceedings of the Seventh 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 Seventh International Conference on Open Magnetic Systems for Plasma Confinement (OS2008) was held in Daejeon, Korea, from July 15 to July 18, 2008. We express our thanks to Dr. B. J. Lee (local chair) and 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. Jung-Sik Yoon (OS2008 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 sixth) conferences in this series are the following:

- OS1998 (second): *Transactions of Fusion Technology* (*Trans. FT*), Vol. 35, No. 1T (1999);
- OS2000 (third): *Trans. FT*, Vol. 39, No. 1T (2001);
- OS2002 (fourth): *Trans. FS&T*, Vol. 43, No. 1T (2003);
- OS2004 (fifth): *Trans. FS&T*, Vol. 47, No. 1T (2005);
- OS2006 (sixth): *Trans. FS&T*, Vol. 51, No. 2T (2007).

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.

Fusion Science and Technology is pleased to be recognized as a “home” for publication in this area, and we look forward to continuing this tradition for future meetings in this series, the next one being OS2010, which will be held in Novosibirsk, Russia. 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