

SQM2007 – International Conference on Strangeness in Quark Matter Levoca, Slovakia, 24-29 June 2007

First Announcement

The International Conference on Strangeness in Quark Matter 2007 (SQM2007) will be held from 24 to 29 June at the congress hall of a cultural centre in a small medieval town Levoca (north-eastern Slovakia). The arrival of participants is expected on Saturday 23 June, the conference will end at about noon on Friday, 29 June. The SQM2007 is organized by Ivan Králik (Košice), Vojtech Petráček (Prague), Ján Pišút (Bratislava), Emanuele Quercigh (CERN), Karel Šafárik (co-chair, CERN), Ladislav Šándor (co-chair, Košice), Boris Tomášik (Banská Bystrica) and Jozef Urbán (Košice). The conference web page is at <http://www.saske.sk/SQM2007>.

Scientific programme

The conference will focus on the recent theoretical and experimental progress in understanding the production of strange and heavy flavour (charm, beauty) quarks in high-energy nuclear collisions. Recent advances at lower energies, the future heavy-ion programme at CERN LHC and astrophysical aspects of strangeness will also be reviewed. The first day of conference (24 June) will be devoted to a student and junior post-doctoral symposium, followed by plenary sessions during the rest of the week. Contributions to the symposium will be included in the conference proceedings. One half-day will be devoted to parallel sessions and time for a poster session is also foreseen. The conference aims at a lively, informal and friendly atmosphere with ample discussion time. The conference proceedings will be published by Journal of Physics G: Nuclear and Particle Physics.

The deadline to submit abstracts of contributions to the conference is 30.04.2007. The selection of abstracts for oral presentation will be made by the middle of May 2007. A poster session will be arranged for the contributions not selected for oral presentation at the conference. Students and young post-docs applying for the local support are particularly encouraged to submit abstracts. The student and junior scientist symposium programme will be mainly based on submitted abstracts.

Registration and conference fee

The online registration is now open at the conference web page. The early registration fee is 12,300.- Slovak crowns - SKK (360 EUR) which will cover lunches, breaks, social events (banquet, conference dinner, half-day excursion), organizing expenses and a copy of the conference proceedings. The deadline for early registration is 30.04.2007. The late or on-spot registration fee is 14,000.- SKK (410 EUR). Conference fee for the students is 7,200.- SKK (210 EUR). For the accompanying persons additional tickets for the conference dinner (1200 SKK / 35 EUR) and excursion (1200 SKK / 35 EUR) should be paid together with the registration fee. Please note that registrations are valid once payment has been received. There are two possible methods of payment – by bank transfer and by credit card (mail order). You can find details at the SQM2007 web page.

There will be funds available to support conference participation of graduate students covering either the registration fee or local expenses. The application for the support should be stated in the registration form. In addition, a letter of recommendation by the student's supervisor should be sent to organizers (sqm2007@saske.sk).

Accommodation

Accommodation of participants is foreseen in four star hotel SATEL (60 EUR/night) and three star hotels U LEVA (50 EUR), BARBAKAN (45 EUR) and ARKADA (40 EUR). The quoted approximate prices correspond to a price of a double room with a single occupancy. There are also cheaper but comfortable hostels (pensions) available (about 25 EUR/night). Online booking managed by the SATEL travel agency will be opened soon via the conference web page.

Travel

The nearest airports to the conference site are Poprad-Tatry (25 km) and Košice (90 km). Poprad has regular flights to Prague and London-Stansted, from the Košice airport there are regular flights to Vienna, Prague and Bratislava. The IC/EC trains from Vienna, Bratislava and Prague stop at Poprad-Tatry. Organizers will provide an assistance with transport from/to airports and railway station. The citizens of some countries will need Slovak entry visa. Please ask the organizers well before for the official invitation letter.

Social events

- Welcome reception – 24 June evening in historical rooms of the renaissance town hall preceded by a guided visit of St. James church with masterpiece of the late gothic carver Master Paul of Levoca – the highest gothic wooden altar in the world (height 18.62 m, finished in 1517) – free of charge for the accompanying person
- Excursion – 27 June afternoon, visiting Pieniny national park with The Red Monastery museum (14th century Cartesian monastery), rafting the 9 km long canyon of the Dunajec river, barbecue – included in the conference fee for participants, 35 EUR for the accompanying person
- Conference dinner – 28 June evening in the congress hall – included in the conference fee for participants, 35 EUR for the accompanying person.

The ladies programme – if requested – can be also arranged.

We look forward to meeting many of you at the Conference.

Karel Šafářík and Ladislav Šándor
for the SQM2007 organizing committee

05.03.2007