

# **UK-V4 FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM**

**21-23 February 2007, Kraków**

## **FINAL REPORT**

### **1. Organizers**

The conference was organized by the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Royal Society in cooperation with the Czech, Slovak and Hungarian Academies of Sciences.

Organizing Committee composed of the representatives of all the participating organizations was established. It was the Committee's responsibility to prepare the conference, as well as to ensure its high scientific quality. The Polish Academy of Sciences dealt with all the logistic aspects of preparations, as well as supervising the conference.

### **2. Aim of the conference**

Frontiers of Science (FoS) is a programme of meetings aimed at bringing together some of the very best young (aged 45 or under) scientists together to discuss exciting advances and opportunities in their fields in a format that encourages informal collective as well as one-on-one discussions among participants. The purpose is to bring together the best young researchers - the next generation of leaders - in science, in the UK and around the world and explore new opportunities for collaboration. Future science leaders should get to know each other, and this is one way of achieving that. The meetings give participants the opportunity to forge new relationships.

### **3. Place and time of the conference**

The *UK-V4 Frontiers of Science Symposium* was held on 21-23 February 2007 in Kraków. The participants were accommodated at the Cracovia hotel while the plenary sessions took place at the *Manggha* - Centre of Japanese Art and Technology facing the Wawel castle, a 15-minute-walk away from the hotel.

### **4. Participants**

86 participants took part in the conference. They can be divided into three groups.

The first group of participants included persons selected by the Organizing Committee of the conference. The selection was based on applications submitted by the participating

Academies. Each institution was asked to delegate 16 persons, 10 as so-called “regular” participants (not allowed to give speeches, only to present posters), whereas the remaining 6 participants as sessions’ moderators and speakers either presenting opening remarks or giving keynote addresses.

The second group of participants comprised representatives of institutions that were organizers of the conference, the most prominent being:

- prof. Jan Palouš, Presidium member, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic;
- prof. Jan Slezák, Vice-President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences;
- prof. Gyala Katona, Hungarian Academy of Sciences;
- prof. Lorna Casselton, Vice-President and Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Royal Society;
- prof. Andrzej Górski, Vice-President of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The third group comprised 5 observers from India, a co-organizer – along with the Royal Society - of the next Frontiers of Science meeting.

## **5. Program**

The conference was made up of 7 two-hour sessions focusing on the key issues of such science disciplines as: biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, astronomy and life sciences. Each session was moderated by a different person, appointed by the Organizing Committee. Three speakers were chosen for every session: one to give a session opening speech (15 minutes) and two for giving detailed presentations on the main topics concerned (2x25 minutes). The remaining 55 minutes were devoted to a discussion in each case.

Besides, two one-hour poster sessions were held. During these sessions, 30 posters were presented and a 30-minute-session on the possibilities of financing of international research projects was held.

The conference was opened (21.02) by Professor Andrzej Górski, Vice-President of the PAS. It was officially closed during the last dinner on 23 February after representatives of all the institutions – co-organizers of the conference – had delivered their speeches (the speech of the Slovak Academy of Sciences’ representative was moved for the morning session on 23 February).

## **6. Financing**

The conference was co-financed by the Royal Society, International Visegrad Fund and the Polish Academy of Sciences.

## **7. Conclusions**

The conference proceeded smoothly, both from the content-related and organizational points of view. All the sessions and other conference events were held – which should be stressed – according to schedule, without any delay.

Thematic sessions were very interesting. Discussions that accompanied the sessions were very lively. They showed a real interest of the participants in a discussed issue, even in case of those participants who do not specialize in a given branch of science. An important aspect of these discussions was the fact that so many conference participants took part in them.

All the thematic sessions were recorded in the video system and are available at the Chancellery of the PAS.

Warsaw, 14 May 2007