

PREFACE

The XXIII International Conference on Differential Geometric Methods in Theoretical Physics (XXIII DGMTP) was organized by Nankai Institute of Mathematics from August 20th to 26th, 2005. It was Professor S.S. Chern and Professor W. Nahm who proposed the XXIII DGMTP on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Professor S.S. Chern's paper "Characteristic classes of Hermitian manifolds". Unfortunately, Professor S.S. Chern passed away in December 2004. So this Conference is in memory of Professor Chern dedicated by more than one hundred mathematicians and physicists actively working in the field, in particular differential geometry, topology, gauge theories, statistical mechanics, mathematical physics, and so on.

The XXIII DGMTP was held in the new building of Nankai Institute of Mathematics. It was completed one month before the Conference and named Shiing-Shen Building in memory of Professor S.S. Chern who founded the Institute in 1985.

The members of the International Advisory Committee include Professors Michael Atiyah, Jean-Michel Bismut, Shiing-Shen Chern, Alain Connes, Simon Donaldson, Ludvig Faddeev, Chaohao Gu, Vaughan F.R. Jones, Yuri. I. Manin, Edward Witten and Chen Ning Yang. We are greatly grateful to them for the very kind suggestions. We thank all of plenary and parallel session's speakers, not only for their bringing the newest developments in the frontier of the field, but also for their kind cooperation in many ways. We highly obliged to all of the session organizers including Professors Victor Batyrev, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Louis H. Kauffman, Xiao-Song Lin, Werner Nahm, Antti Niemi, Andrew Strominger, Fa Yueh Wu, Yong-Shi Wu and Xin Zhou for their most excellent jobs.

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