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Preface

Meetings of the Polish Mössbauer Community encoded as *OSSM* after their Polish name *Ogólnopolskie Seminarium Spektroskopii Mössbauerowskiej* have had a long tradition and can be divided into two generations. The first one started in the late 1960s and ended in the early 1980s. It was organized by the Kraków Group of the Polish Mössbauer Community which had pioneered the Mössbauer spectroscopy in Poland. The Meetings in that period took place on a rather irregular pace.

The second generation had started in 1996 as a result of a ballot carried out among potential participants, and it was held in Lublin. Since then, *OSSMs* have been held biannually always organized by a different group of people and in different places across the country. Thus we had it organized by the Wrocław people in Sobótka-Górka (1998), by the Radom people in Radom-Zbożenna (2000), by the Białystok people in Goniądz (2002), by the Katowice people in Wisła (2004) and by the Częstochowa people in Koszęcin (2006).

The Seminars, as we use to call our Meetings, attract some 40–45 participants, on average, who represent all 18 Mössbauer laboratories that are active in Poland. The present Meeting held in Koninki has broken the record as far as a number of participants (54) and that of presentations (49) is concerned. For the first time, we had 2 invited lectures and 4 foreign participants. Most of the contributions were in the field of physics and this has been a characteristic feature of scientific activities of the Polish Mössbauer Community. The major part of the contributions can be classified as those concerning metals, alloys and intermetallic compounds with magnetism as the main investigated issue. The latter is related to the fact that ^{57}Fe site Mössbauer effect constitutes 2/3 of all investigations using the Mössbauer spectroscopy.

The next *OSSM* will take place in 2010 and it will be organized by the Mössbauer spectroscopists from Warsaw.

Stanisław M. Dubiel
Guest Editor