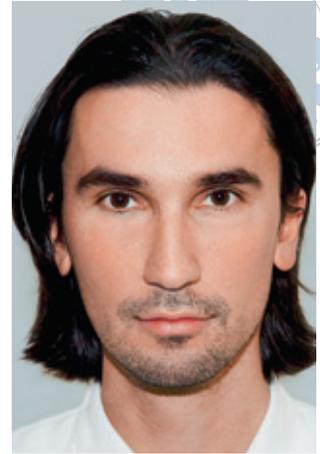


Changes at Year's End



Dear Colleagues,

Very few expected this year to be as successful as it has been, taking the turbulent fluctuations caused by the financial crisis into consideration. With congress preparations in full swing, an element of uncertainty and scepticism was being sensed. But the congress proved rather to hit the mark. Firstly, the celebration of the 10th anniversary of SOLA at its place of origin made a great impact. Secondly, nearly 300 participants took part in the congress, maintaining good attendance over the years.

Further, during the congress, new members were elected to the editorial board of JOLA, probably marking the beginning of a new era. For the new members, it is not only an honor, but also a great responsibility. Regrettably, we also had to bid farewell to some members of the editorial board. We thank them for all their efforts during the past years. We are also proud to welcome the newly founded association SOLA France.

As a result of good negotiations during the congress, the following countries are proposing to found their own societies and become established members of SOLA: Iran, Sudan, Canada, Russia. With great joy, SOLA is

looking forward to co-organizing the International Congress devoted to the 50th Anniversary of the invention of LASER, to take place in Moscow on the 24th and 25th of September 2010, with the Russian society presently in the course of foundation.

I would like to express my gratitude to SOLA for being offered a chance to continue the work of Dr. Franziska Beer as Managing Editor, and in this spirit, I hope to be able to keep the high standard of the journal.

With a new year approaching and still room for improvement, we hope that you will participate in making SOLA and JOLA even more successful.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Prof. DDr. A. Moritz
President of SOLA International

Dr. Mladen Regoda
Managing Editor SOLA