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SURFACE SCIENCE AND ITS APPLICATIONS

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***SURFACE SCIENCE
AND ITS
APPLICATIONS***

CLACSA- 9

Havana, July 5- 9, 1999

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*¿Acaso ruedan sobre los cristales, cual gotas de lluvia que quieren pasar?
 ¿Acaso nunca vuelven a ser algo? ¿acaso se van?
 ¿Y a dónde van? ¿A dónde van?*

*Silvio Rodríguez,
 ¿A dónde van?*

Preface

The IX Latin American Congress on Surface Science and its Applications (CLACSA - 9) was the successor of a series of meetings begun in 1980. Until 1992 they were called Latin American Surfaces Physics Symposia (SLAFS). After 1994 (Cancun, Mexico) they were called Latin American Congress of Surfaces Sciences and their Applications (CLACSA). This is one of the scientific meetings most expected and attended in Latin America. The previous congresses were: SLAFS - 1 (Brazil, 1980); SLAFS - 2 (Mexico, 1982); SLAFS - 3 (Costa Rica, 1984), SLAFS - 4 (Venezuela, 1986), SLAFS - 5 (Colombia, 1988), SLAFS - 6 (Peru, 1990); SLAFS - 7 (Argentina, 1992); Clacsa - 8 (Mexico, 1994). The meetings are organized by the Latin American Society for Surface Science, Vacuum and their Applications (SLACS). The creation of the SLACS was approved in the General Meeting of SLAFS- 6 in Cusco and was established during SLAFS- 7 in Bariloche. Some of the objectives of the society are the promotion of the scientific and technological development of the Latin American region through the diffusion of surface science, vacuum, and their applications, and the establishment of cooperative efforts among research groups or institutions.

CLACSA-9 was held on 5- 9 July 1999 in the Riviera Hotel of La Habana, Cuba. It attracted more than 150 researchers from 16 countries, mostly from Latin America. The program of the congress included plenary and invited conferences and oral and poster sessions. It was organized by symposia that included the following topics: electronic and structural properties, modeling, imaging and analysis of surfaces and interfaces; low dimensional and mesoscopic systems; superconductivity, magnetism and ferroelectricity in thin films; growth, characterization and applications of thin films and coatings; vacuum, cryogenics and instrumentation; corrosion and catalysis; surfaces and interfaces in biological systems and biomaterials; interaction of molecules , atoms and ions with surfaces.

The meeting was sponsored by the University of Havana, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the Latin American Centre of Physics (CLAF), the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN, Mexico), the Center for Research and Advanced

Studies (CINVESTAV, Mexico). These proceedings were partially supported by the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (Conacyt) of Mexico.

There was a very enthusiastic participation in the poster and oral sessions. Hotel Havana Riviera in the coast of La Habana was a good place to promote informal discussions and new liaisons. In the General Assembly it was decided that the next CLACSA will held in San José de Costa Rica in July, 2001.

Social activities were enjoyed by the participants. In the traditional "talent show" (organized by O. Arés and J. C. Drake) the participants presented artistic performances including dancing, music and humor. The excursion to Varadero beach (during the very warm Friday) was an occasion to enjoy its transparent water and fine and white sand. Finally, the typical Cuban banquet offered to the attendants the flavors of the "tamal en cazuela", the "chatinos" and the typical roasted pork meat.

The editors want to acknowledge the help of E. Larramendi in the preparation of the book.

O. de Melo, Havana
I. Hernández- Calderón, Mexico City

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