

## Preface

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The 2012 Rencontres de Physique de la Vallée d’Aoste were held at the Planibel Hotel of La Thuile, Aosta Valley, on February 26th - March 3rd, featuring the twenty-sixth edition of “Results and Perspectives in Particle Physics”.

The physics programme included various topics in particle physics, also in connection with present and future experimental facilities, as cosmology and astrophysics, neutrino physics,  $CP$  violation and rare decays, electroweak and hadron physics with  $e^+e^-$  and hadron colliders, heavy flavours, search for new physics and prospects at future facilities.

The session on “Physics and Society” included special colloquia on “Thorium Reactors”, and “Physics in Latin America”. We are very grateful to Stuart Henderson and Luciano Maiani for their participation and contribution.

Giorgio Bellettini, Giorgio Chiarelli, Gino Isidori and I would like to warmly thank the session chairpersons and the speakers for their contribution to the success of the meeting.

The regional government of the Aosta Valley, in particular through the Minister of Public Education and Culture Laurent Vierin, has been very pleased to offer its financial support and hospitality to the Rencontres of La Thuile. Also on behalf of the participants, representatives of some major Laboratories and Institutes in the world, we would like to thank all the Regional Authorities. Special thanks are also due to Bruno Baschiera, local coordinator of the Rencontres.

We are grateful to the President of INFN Fernando Ferroni, the Directors of INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Umberto Dosselli and INFN Sezione di Pisa, Giovanni Batignani, for the support in the organization of the Rencontres. We would like to thank also Lucia Lilli, Claudia Tofani and Paolo Villani for their help in both planning and running the meeting. We are also grateful to Alessandra Miletto for her valuable contribution to the local organization of the meeting. The excellent assistance provided by Mauro Giannini made it possible to set up the computer link to the international network.

Finally we would like to thank the Mayor Gilberto Roulet and the local authorities of La Thuile and the “Azienda di Promozione Turistica del Monte Bianco” for their warm hospitality, and the Planibel Hotel staff for providing us with an enjoyable atmosphere.