Optical and Quantum Electronics **31**

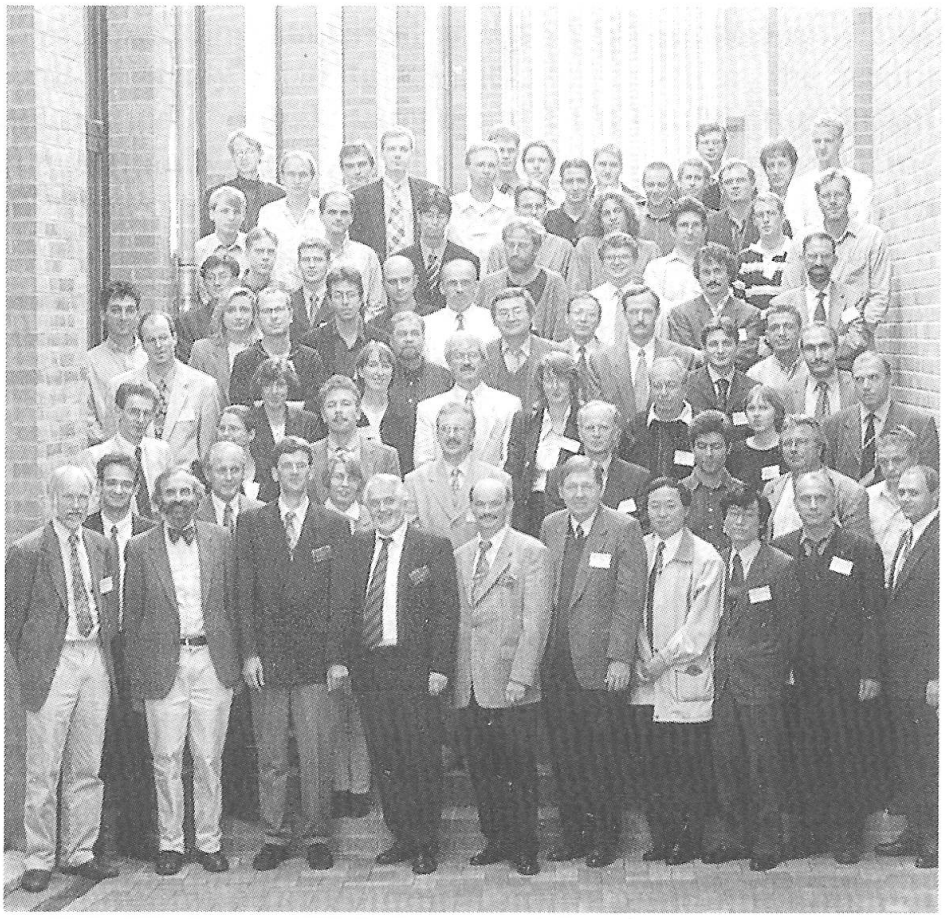
Editorial

In 1998 we had the great pleasure to organise the International Workshop on Optical Waveguide Theory and Numerical Modelling, on 18 and 19 September in Hagen, Germany. It took place in the Arcadium, a new conference and seminar centre associated with the FernUniversität, which offers an ideal venue for such an event.

This workshop series, which started in the year 1992 in Berlin in close connection to the European Conference on Optical Communication (ECOC) may now be seen as a well established event in optical society, especially for theoreticians and numerical modellers. Therefore, this year's workshop was attended by approximately 80 scientists from 17 countries including USA, Canada and Japan.

A photo of the participants is shown at the end of this introduction.

A large number of contributions was dealing with device oriented modelling, while "classic" problems like BPM improvements or eigenmode solvers are still playing an important role. It should be mentioned that a new topic–photonic bandgap structures–has been presented at this meeting.



As in the last years this special issue of Optical and Quantum Electronics includes mainly the papers which have been presented during the workshop, though other contributions dealing with optical waveguide theory and numerical modelling have also been welcome. It was our great pleasure to act as guest editors for this special issue.

We are happy to thank all the authors for their contributions to the workshop and this special issue and the reviewers for their efficient work, which made a fast publication process possible. Finally, we want to thank Prof. R. Pregla, the workshop chairman, and the other members of our institute who contributed to the success of the workshop, as well as the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Council) and the Friends of the FernUniversität for the generous support.

Wilfrid W. Pascher and Stefan F. Helfert
FernUniversität, Allgemeine und Theoretische Elektrotechnik,
D-58084 Hagen, Germany