

Communiqué

Second South Asian High Energy Physics Instrumentation Workshop on Detector Technology and Applications (SAHEPI-2)

Colombo, Sri Lanka
20-21 February 2019

Following the very successful first *South Asian High Energy Physics Instrumentation (SAHEPI) Workshop on Detector Technology and Applications* in June 2017 at Nepal's Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, the second edition of the workshop (SAHEPI-2) took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 20 and 21 February 2019.

SAHEPI-2 brought together physicists and policy makers from CERN, the South Asia region, and neighbouring countries. Representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended, with at least one senior scientist and one student from each country having been invited, making a total of about 70 participants, more than 40 of whom were students.

The aim of SAHEPI-2 was to continue the dialogue opened in Nepal to strengthen the scientific co-operation between CERN and the South Asia region and to reinforce intra-regional links. The workshop provided the opportunity for countries to enhance their existing contacts and to establish new connections within the region, with the objective of initiating new intra-regional collaborations in particle physics and related technologies, including the promotion of exchange of researchers and students within the region.

Participants reviewed the status, the operation of present facilities, and the scientific experimental programme and upgrades planned for the next few decades at CERN, along with an overview of societal applications of state-of-the-art technologies. The physics communities of South Asia presented highlights of their ongoing experimental programmes in collaboration with CERN and other international scientific projects. Students from all South Asian countries had the opportunity to present posters.

The workshop also featured a panel discussion, chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, which focused on science collaboration between South Asia and CERN, on intra-regional collaboration, and on the role of fundamental science in advancing development.

For CERN, the workshop and the initiative to reinforce the particle physics capacity in the region also form part of broader efforts to encourage emphasis on fundamental research in the context of development, notably to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda. Against this backdrop, discussions also took place on the first-of-its-kind professional development programme for high-school teachers of STEM subjects from the South Asia region, inspired by the SDGs and to be held in New Delhi on 22-26 April 2019.

The motivation and enthusiasm of the participants was notable, and it was clear to see the efforts put in for research and education. The proceedings of the workshop will be presented to representatives of the governments from the participating countries with the objective of raising awareness at the highest political level of the growth in the community in the region and its value for broader societal development.

CERN will continue to engage with the region in an effort to build capacity in particle physics research and education and to facilitate collaboration with CERN. It was decided that due to the success of SAHEPI-2, discussions will continue in 2021 at SAHEPI-3.

Information on the SAHEPI-2 workshop is available at <https://fos.cmb.ac.lk/sahepi2019/>

21 February 2019