

ICHEP2020 experience

Tomas Davidek,
on behalf of the ICHEP2020 LOC

Introduction (1)

- The 40th edition of International Conference on High Energy Physics (ICHEP) was planned to be held in Prague, 29.7-5.8.2020
 - conference takes place every 2 years, latest results in high energy physics (both experiment and theory) are presented and discussed there
- Originally planned as normal face-to-face conference, preparations started back in 2016
 - during spring 2020, many discussion on the format. Options discussed
 - hold the conference as originally planned, even if some/many speakers could not come
 - postpone
 - remote only
 - cancel
 - finally, together with IUPAP/C11 and IAC we decided to organize the event as fully online

Introduction (2)

ICHEP 2020 | PRAGUE

40th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

**VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE**

28 JULY - 6 AUGUST 2020

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

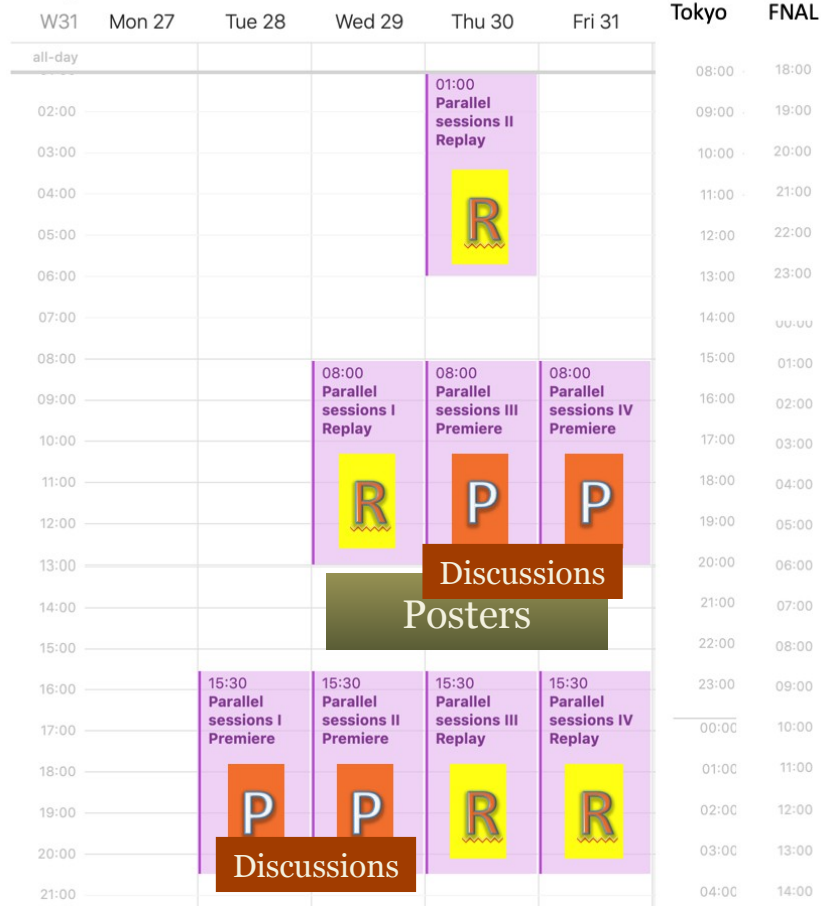
- Indico page: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/868940/overview>
- Organized jointly by several CZ universities/institutes (Charles University, Institute of Physics of ASCR, Czech Technical University in Prague, Institute of Nuclear Physics of ASCR, Palacky University in Olomouc, Technical University in Liberec, University of Western Bohemia in Plzen)

ICHEP2020 format (1)

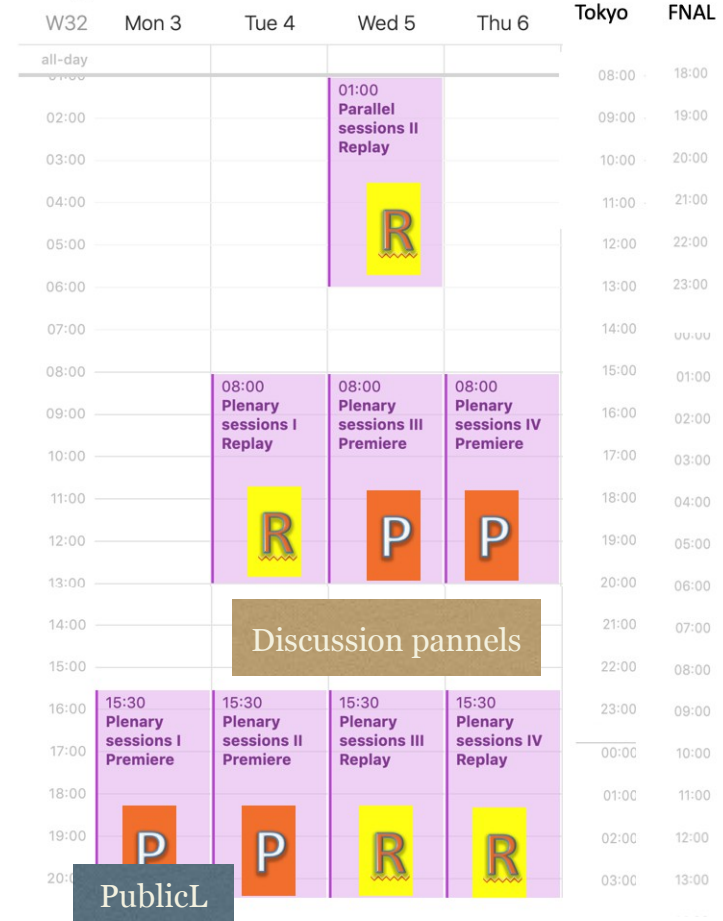
- Normally, ICHEP is organized in 3+3 days (parallel + plenary sessions), between 9:00 up to 18:00 every day
- Format chosen for the online version, agreed with IAC
 - 4+4 days (parallel + plenary sessions), 5 hours/day
 - premiere sessions (alternating between morning and afternoon to fit East and West time zones) and replay sessions (morning/afternoon/night) to make life of participants from other time zones easier
 - speakers asked for preferred time slot during registration

ICHEP2020 format (2)

July 2020



August 2020



Registrants

Continent	#Countries	Registrants	Fraction
Europe	30	1675	55.6 %
North America	3	587	19.5 %
South America	6	105	3.5 %
Asia	20	583	19.4 %
Africa	4	36	1.2 %
Oceania	2	24	0.8 %
Total	65	3010	100 %
ICHEP2016	51	1430	
ICHEP2018	64	1160	

Gender	Registrants	Fraction	ICHEP 2016	ICHEP 2018
male	2178	72 %	80 %	77 %
female	772	26 %	20 %	23 %
rather not say	54	2 %		
other	6	0 %		
Total	3010	100 %		

Technical details (1)

- Talks

- Zoom platform (large meeting 500 for parallel sessions, Webinar 3000 for Neutrino parallel session and plenary session), simultaneous streaming to YouTube (delay ~1 min)
- all sessions were recorded, videos remained on YouTube and were later available also on CERN Document Server, all slides in Indico
- plenary session talks close captioned
- talks were not pre-recorded
- each session chaired by a convenor as usual, technical matters (audio/video tests before the session, recording etc) managed by technical assistant from LOC

- Posters

- poster sessions organized every day of parallel sessions 13:30-15:00
- people presented mini-talks (5 slides max) and were invited to upload further material (e.g. standard poster) in the agenda

Technical details (2)

- Discussion - a key ingredient of every conference
 - within each session
 - questions and answers live during premiere sessions on Zoom (either directly or through chat) after each talk
 - Zoom rooms remained open 60 mins after each parallel session to enable further discussion
 - offline via CERN Mattermost (Slack technology)
 - topical discussion panels with pre-assigned senior scientists organized during the plenary week
 - virtual Prague tour via drawings of Jan Hladky



Some statistics

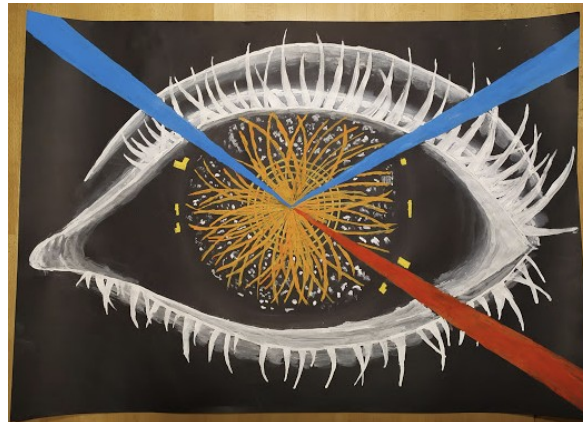
- 800 parallel talks, 150 posters, 17 parallel sessions
- 44 plenary talks
- Connected participants
 - unique participants (connected for more than 15 min): 2835 Zoom, $O(200)$ YouTube
 - parallel sessions: typically 100 - 200 per typical session, 500 - 1200 in total
 - plenary sessions: 500 - 1200
 - dozens of people watched replay sessions on YouTube
 - 20 - 100 people connected to discussion panels

Outreach, public relations

- Facebook CZ (thanks to P. Köppl et al.)
- Twitter EN
- Art Competition BeInspired
- B. Barish (Nobel Prize 2017) public online lecture on 3 Aug 20:00
- Bing Bang Stage + Universal Science 5 Aug 13:00-22:00
- ERC workshop 4 Aug



BeInspired@ICHEP2020

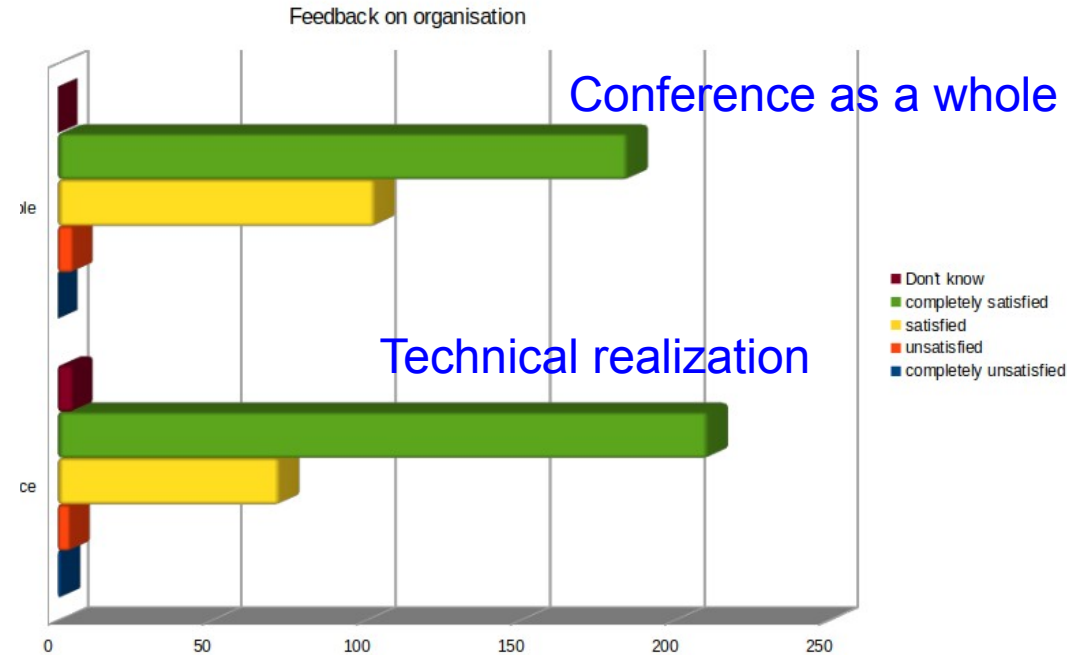


Tomas Davidek, IPNP



Feedback

- 300 responses to survey



- Many congratulations received
- Example: As a (physically disabled) postgraduate student in South Africa, I would not have been able to obtain the funding, so the introduction of a virtual conference was especially appreciated

Our reflections

- **Advantages**
 - much more participants than usual
 - inclusivity (people had no travel difficulties)
- **Problems**
 - some people asked to be removed from recordings a posteriori → very time consuming operation and the new YouTube upload comes with different link

Conclusions

- Great success for an internet conference
- Large and active organisation team essential
- Great support of institutions
- More people needed for running the conference
- High expectations from community (closed captioning, inventive poster and discussions sessions, recording)

BACKUP