

Report on the 11th Workshop on Multimedia in Physics Teaching and Learning (MPTL11)

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The 11th Workshop on Multimedia in Physics Teaching and Learning was organized at the **University of Szeged** (Hungary) from Sept. 20 to 22, 2006 by Prof. **M. Benedict**. It was attended by about 60 participants representing more than 15 countries. The scientific program offered 6 invited talks, 9 oral contributions and 14 interactive posters.

The topics of the presentations showed a broader range compared to previous workshops:

P. Maroti (Univ. Szeged, Hungary) gave an overview on simulations in biology and biophysics,

V. Albrecht (Univ. Frankfurt, Germany) introduced web- and exercise-based learning modules as elements of knowledge construction in geography, and

H. Schmidt (Univ. Darmstadt, Germany) gave an insider-view into the world of industrial research and development.

Three talks showed how much excellent multimedia material has already been developed and is available for use at schools and universities:

W. Christian (Davidson College, USA) concentrated on open-source libraries, whereas

F. Esquembre (Univ. Murcia, Spain) introduced an open-source program which facilitates to a large extent the creation of simulations and curricula applications.

B. Mason (Univ. Oklahoma, USA) presented the outcome of an extensive evaluation of MM software on electricity and magnetism, performed in cooperation by an American (MERLOT) and a European group. This is the continuation of a program in which one field of physics is investigated each year: it starts with a worldwide search for MM programs, which are then surveyed and evaluated resulting in recommendations for excellent products.

Finally, **J. Turso** (Univ. Torun, Poland) gave an overview on the use of multimedia applications in Polish schools.

On the occasion of MPTL11, the **Eötvös Plaque** of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was awarded to Prof. **Hans-Jörg Jodl** "*for outstanding and devoted activities as well as lifetime service in the science of geophysics*". The MPTL community recognized this event as a great honour to Hans-Jörg Jodl, who was the founder of MPTL and who has been its very active chairman for the first ten years.

10 years of MPTL seems also to indicate a transition regarding its aims and content. In the past decade the development of good material has been the centre of efforts and (wo)manpower. This year's workshop has shown clearly that a vast amount of MM material exists, both commercial and freely available. At least some of this material is of very high quality. Hence, there is now a need to focus on ways to implement MM into school and university curricula. Examples of best practice exist, but thorough investigations on the use of MM in physics education are not common. Managing this transition will be a major challenge to the MPTL community, since the developing and testing software requires different approaches and competencies than evaluating its use and didactic benefit.

The next MPTL workshop will take place at the **University of Wroclaw**, Poland, from **Sept. 15 to 19, 2007**; the organizer will be Prof. **Ewa Debowska**.