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Foreword

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On April 15-17, 2009, about two hundred physicists met in Bari, Italy, in the Domina Palace Conference Center, for the eighth edition of IFAE (*Incontri di Fisica delle Alte Energie*). The workshop was organized by Sezione di Bari of Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare and by Dipartimento Interateneo di Fisica of University and Polytechnic of Bari.

The scientific presentations were delivered in plenary sessions and in five parallel sessions:

- Electroweak Physics and QCD (*conveners: Pasquale Di Nezza and Carlo Oleari*)
- Physics Beyond the Standard Model (*conveners: Isabella Masina and Simone Genai*)
- Flavour Physics (*conveners: Maurizio Pierini and Silvano Tosi*)
- Neutrino and Astroparticle Physics (*conveners: Vito Antonelli and Francesco Cafagna*)
- New accelerators, detectors, computing, and new technologies (*conveners: Luciano Catani, Sonia Tangaro and Fulvio Tessarotto*).

A Round Table was also organized, with the participation of Alessandro Alemberti (Ansaldo Nucl.), Vanni Antoni (CNR-Padova), Luisa Cifarelli (SIF), Nicola Colonna (INFN-Bari), Gabriele Puglierin (INFN-LNL) and Gianni Ricco (INFN-Genova), to discuss the initiatives for the use of nuclear energy from nuclear fusion and fission in Italy.

The workshop saw the active and enthusiastic participation of young physicists, who represented the largest part of the participants. This volume collects the contributions to the meeting.

As organizers of the event, we want to thank the Institutions and individuals who have contributed to its success: the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Bari, and the Physics Department of University and Polytechnic of Bari; the conveners of the five sessions and all the plenary and parallel session speakers; the organizers and the participants to the Round Table on energy; the IFAE Advisory Committee. We are grateful to the conference secretariat Annalisa Lorusso, Barbara Scuderi and Antonio Silvestri; to Alessandro Casale, Piero Del Vecchio and Fabrizio Ventola for their technical support; to Antonia Lubinati and the staff of Domina Palace Hotel and Conference Center for their kind assistance.