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**Juan Hernández-Cordero
Ismael Torres-Gómez
Alexis Méndez**
Editors

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Introduction

It is with great pleasure—and gratitude to all of those who helped make it possible—that we present these proceedings from the 2nd Workshop on Specialty Optical Fibers and their Applications (WSOF-2), held 13–15 October 2010 in Oaxaca City, México. We chose the city of Oaxaca to provide an exciting and entertaining backdrop for the workshop. This location is a beautiful colonial city that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is located within one of the most culturally rich states in México.

WSOF-2 is a technical workshop intended to report on the latest advances and innovations in specialty optical fibers, its applications and associated devices; as well as to serve as a discussion forum by bringing together researchers, academics, manufacturers and students working in the field. The event aims to cover the most up-to-date and diverse fiber types, including micro-structured and photonic crystal fibers (PCF), non-silica fibers, as well as new directions in fiber devices and sensors. For this edition, a special session on Specialty Fibers for High Power Fiber Lasers was assembled—a topic of current research and commercial interest.

This proceedings volume contains the works of over 50 contributed papers (both as oral and poster presentations) together with 14 invited talks. The technical program includes noteworthy plenary talks by Prof. David Payne of Southampton University on a retrospective of doped fibers and fiber lasers; and an overview on Photonic Crystal Fibers by Dr. Ole Bang of the Danish Technical University; as well as a tutorial on specialty fibers for fiber laser applications By Dr. William Torruellas of the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins University.

From its inception, the main goal of WSOF has been to increase the interaction among well-established research groups and emerging research groups in Latin American countries. The first WSOF was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in August, 2008. It was an event originally conceived and organized by Profs. Cristiano M. B. Cordeiro and Christiano J. S. de Matos. For WSOF-2, we continued some of this fundamental philosophy, but expanded the size of the technical program committee and diversified its composition to include representatives from around the world. By organizing WSOF-2, it is our sincere hope to help promote and broaden the diffusion of the research activities in the specialty fibers field.

We are delighted to welcome you to the workshop and the city of Oaxaca!

Juan Hernández-Cordero
Ismael Torres-Gómez
Alexis Méndez