Fifteenth Conference on Education and Training in Optics and Photonics: ETOP 2019

Anne-Sophie Poulin-Girard
Joseph A. Shaw
Editors

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Introduction

The 15th edition of the Conference on Education and Training in Optics and Photonics took place in Québec, Canada, 21–24 May 2019. Collocated with Photonics North, ETOP 2019 welcomed participants from 23 countries around the world and various professional backgrounds.

Since the first meeting in 1988 in San Diego, California (United States), ETOP has traveled around the world, bringing together leading experts and educators around the topic of high-quality training in optics and photonics at all levels. Along the way, ETOP has integrated the efforts of four professional organizations around a common goal: advancing and sharing knowledge in education in our field.

Light and light-based technologies touch the daily lives of everybody and are central to the future development of the global society. Innovation in education is essential to solving the grand challenges faced by the optics and photonics community. We need leading education programs at all levels and relevant continuous training for the workforce, to be welcoming and inclusive with the future and current professionals, and to reach out to the young people and the general public to meet the growing demands of research, science and industry.

This year’s technical program was rich and diverse with the community’s contribution. It was divided into five tracks discussing Higher Education; the use of New Technologies, Industry training, Pedagogical Methods, and K-12 and Outreach. Two special sessions addressed the special topics of Challenges in Optics, and Optics and Nature.

We look forward to the next edition of ETOP and hope to see you again in 2021.

Anne-Sophie Poulin-Girard
Joseph A. Shaw