

has been revised, with the energy scaled up from 1 GeV to 2 GeV. The reason, says Einfeld, is that “the users of the Middle East region are asking for hard x-ray photons—it will go up to 20 keV.” Because of modifications to the design, the higher energy does not translate into a higher price, he adds.

And Herman Winick, who came up with the idea for SESAME in the first place, has hit on the idea of scrounging parts from other synchrotron sources. He’s starting at home, where next year Stanford University’s SPEAR ring will be dismantled in preparation for a major upgrade. “All equipment upgrades generate bone yards,” says Winick. “I’m making some progress in convincing people not to cannibalize.” The next step is for the SESAME council to send engineers and technicians to pack up the parts. The people for the job, says Winick, would be some of the roughly 20 young scientists from the Middle East who have been training in Europe to build and operate synchrotrons. “For about \$30 000 in expenses, they might get \$1 million in equipment. In many cases, the stuff is not so bad. And with SESAME, we have a lot of labor and not as much money. It also has symbolic value when we give to this peace project.”

Within the past year, Bharrain, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates joined SESAME. The project’s other members are Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, the Palestinian Authority, and Turkey. Armenia, the runner-up to host SESAME, has downgraded its participation to observer status so it can focus on a more recent domestic synchrotron initiative, CANDLE (see PHYSICS TODAY, June 2000, page 51, and June 2001, page 32). With those changes, SESAME now has 13 members. But membership will be revisited now that SESAME is under UNESCO’s auspices: For the project to gain legal status, six partners must ratify its new statutes and pay membership dues.

TONI FEDER

Lo to Lead NRAO

Fred Lo has been tapped for the top job at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, according to a 20 June announcement by Associated Universities Inc, which runs NRAO for NSF. He will replace Paul Vanden Bout, who was director for more than 17 years and left on 1 June to oversee, on an interim basis, construction of the Atacama Large Millimeter

Array (ALMA) in Chile. Lo comes on board on 1 September; until then, W. Miller Goss is serving as acting director of NRAO.

Lo moves to NRAO from Taipei, Taiwan, where, since 1997, he has been director of the Academia Sinica’s Institute of Astronomy and



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Astrophysics (ASIAA). Among the projects he’s been involved with while there are the Sub-Millimeter Array (SMA), a collaboration on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, with the Smithsonian Institution, and the Array for Microwave Background Anisotropy, an interferometric array slated to be completed in 2004 that will measure the polarization of the cosmic microwave background. Before going to Taiwan, Lo spent more than a decade at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research interests include star formation, starbursts in near and distant galaxies, megamasers, and the determination of the structure of Sagittarius A*, a compact radio source at the center of the Milky Way.

As NRAO director, Lo will oversee the Very Large Array in Socorro, New Mexico, the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia, the far-flung Very Long Baseline Array, and North American participation in ALMA. “It’s a tremendous challenge and responsibility that I couldn’t refuse,” says Lo. “It’s also important that NRAO works with the university community to make sure that radio astronomy stays strong and attracts more students.”

SMA project scientist Paul Ho, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will replace Lo as director of the ASIAA.

TONI FEDER

Totsuka Tapped as KEK Chief

Yoji Totsuka will take the reins for a three-year term as director general of the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) in Japan. On 1 April 2003, he will replace Hirotaka Sugawara, who plans to return to the University of Hawaii.

Totsuka received his PhD in physics from the University of Tokyo in 1972.

Currently the director of the Kamioka Observatory, which hosts Super-Kamiokande, the world’s largest neutrino detector, Totsuka has worked closely with KEK for years. Totsuka says that he accepted the position to help the next generation of physicists reach their potential. “I am honored to be chosen,” he says, “but not particularly pleased, because the job will be a tough one, and I will find little or no time to enjoy physics any more.”

KEK, originally established in 1971, was reorganized in 1997 to promote cooperation among researchers in fields related to accelerator physics. One of the two institutes that emerged from that reorganization, the Institute of Particle and Nuclear Study, is known for the Belle B-factory electron-positron experiment and K2K, a joint investigation into neutrino behavior with the Kamioka Observatory. K2K is picking up the pieces after an accident late last year in which its detectors at Super-Kamiokande imploded (see PHYSICS TODAY, January 2002, page 22). The second KEK research facility, the Institute of Materials Structure Science, specializes in chemical, biological, and physical research with synchrotron light sources. KEK is currently working with the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute to build a \$1.3 billion high-intensity proton accelerator facility at Tokai, 130 km northeast of Tokyo.

PAUL GUINNESSY



TOTSUKA

KAMIOKA OBSERVATORY

NEWS NOTES

General Gordon to White House. Two years after he became the first administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, retired US Air Force General John Gordon has moved to the White House as a deputy assistant to President Bush to coordinate the federal government’s counteroffensive against terrorism. Gordon is replacing retired US Army General Wayne Downing, a hawk in the war on terrorism who reportedly became frustrated by his lack of influence in the administration. Gordon’s new title is national director and deputy national security adviser for combating terrorism.

“I am, of course, honored that the president has selected me for this