

Press Release

**Freiburg,
November 2, 2009
Nr. 24/09
Page 1**

Colloquium in honor of Prof. Eicke R. Weber

Director of Fraunhofer ISE celebrates 60th birthday

With a colloquium entitled "35 Years of Research on Defects in Semiconductors," Fraunhofer ISE celebrates the 60th birthday of Prof. Eicke R. Weber, Head of the Institute. On October 30, two days after his actual birthday, over 100 invited guests assembled to honor the semi-conductor researcher. Prof. Roland Schindler, the Executive Director of the Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems in Boston – a center which was initiated and supported significantly by Fraunhofer ISE and has an alliance with MIT - extended the official invitation to the Symposium. He himself is a long-time acquaintance of Weber and was able to bring together Weber's scientific colleagues from the past 35 years to participate in this colloquium on Weber's 60th birthday.

Prof. Hans Queisser, former Director of the Max-Planck Institute for Solid State Physics in Stuttgart as well as Prof. Wolfgang Schröter, Emeritus Professor of the Georg-August University in Göttingen spoke retrospectively on Eicke Weber's years as a student and his past research work in Germany. Numerous former Ph.D. students as well as coworkers and colleagues of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory spoke, among other things, on the advances in defect research as well as on Weber's influence on their own scientific careers: Dr. Dieter Gilles, Wacker Siltronic AG; Prof. Toni Buonassisi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT; Dr. Chris Kocot, Finisar Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA; Prof. Connie Chang-Hasnain, University of California, Berkeley; Prof. Maria Kaminska, University of Warsaw, Poland; Prof. Peter Yu, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; and Dr. Petra Specht also from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Prof. Hiroshi Fujioka from the University of Tokyo, a former student of Prof.

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Page 2**

Weber, concluded the series of talks and offered his congratulations.

Included among the guests were also the Mayor of Freiburg Dr. Dieter Salomon and the Chief Executive of the Freiburg Agency on Economy, Tourism and Trade Fairs, Dr. Bernd Dallmann. Dallmann emphasized Weber's involvement in establishing the Intersolar North America in San Francisco as well as the new Freiburg congress series "Solar Summits."

After more than 20 years of employment at the University of California, Berkeley, Eicke Weber returned to Germany to succeed Prof. Joachim Luther as Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE. Concurrently with his appointment as director of Fraunhofer ISE, Eicke Weber is also the new incumbent of the Chair of Applied Physics, Solar Energy at the University of Freiburg.

Weber began his scientific career with the study of physics at the University of Cologne, where he wrote his dissertation on inclusions in silicon. He obtained his doctorate in 1976 with a thesis on "Point Defects in Deformed Silicon." After conducting postdoctoral research at the New York State University, Albany and the Lund University in Sweden, he returned to Cologne where he qualified as a professor in 1983, publishing a fundamental study "Transition Metals in Silicon" which is frequently cited in literature to this day. That same year he joined the Department of Material Science and Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. In March 2004 he was appointed as the interdisciplinary chair of the graduate group "Nanoscale Science and Engineering."

Weber has earned an international reputation as a materials researcher for defects in silicon and III-V semiconductors such as gallium arsenide and gallium nitride. He and his research group have published over 600 papers. Further he is associate editor of the Academic Press book series "Semiconductors and Semimetals." In his younger years, he worked on how quality solar cells can be manufactured using so-called "dirty

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Page 3**

silicon" – silicon with a high metal content. This topic is also pursued today at Fraunhofer ISE.

In 1997 Weber was a founding member of the "Silicon Wafer Engineering and Defect Science" consortium, whose members today comprise twelve firms and nine university groups throughout the world.

Eicke Weber has been decorated with numerous awards and fellowships. He received the IBM Faculty Development Award in 1984, the Alexander von Humboldt Prize in 1994 and was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2002. He was appointed as visiting professor at Tohoku University, Senai, Japan in 1990 and at Kyoto University, Japan in 2000. In December 2003 he was invited to hold the Zhu KheZhen lecture at Zeijang University in Hangzhou, China. In 1996 Weber was the founding president of the Berkeley chapter of the Alexander von Humboldt Association of America (AvHAA). He became president of the AvHAA between 2001-2003. In June 2006 he was awarded the German Cross of Merit.

Weber has been committed to building bridges between Germany and the USA for many years. In 2003, he was a co-founder of the German Scholars Association GSO, of which he is now president. The GSO is an organization of German scientists living and working abroad. Its aim is to maintain contacts with the "old country", thus keeping the door open for the scientists' possible return to Germany. In July 2008, Weber was appointed as Director on the SEMI International Board of Directors. The Electrochemical Society ECS, San Francisco awarded him the Electronics and Photonics Division Award.

The most recent honor received was awarded two weeks before his birthday: the IOFFE Physical-Technical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg named him as an Honorary Member.

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Page 4**



Colloquium honoring 60th birthday of Prof. Eicke R. Weber: left to right: Prof. Roland Schindler, Prof. Maria Kaminska, Dr. Dieter Gilles, Prof. Peter Yu, Prof. Eicke R. Weber, Prof. Hans Queisser, Prof. Wolfgang Schröter, Prof. Connie Chang-Hasnain; in first row: Dr. Chris Kocot, Prof. Tonio Buonassisi, Dr. Petra Specht.

Source: Fraunhofer ISE

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