

IUPAP C13 - Physics for Development Report May-October 2015

The C13 Commission held its annual meeting in Trieste on 5 September 2015. I will report primarily about the discussions and outcomes of the C13 meeting.

1. African Synchrotron Light Source

Synchrotron light sources are among the most multidisciplinary scientific tools available, empowering studies in a myriad of disciplines, including biology, physics, chemistry, materials science, geoscience, energy, environment, and paleontology. There is growing interest at the African and global level in support of an expansion of the African community of synchrotron light source users. A conference and workshop on 'African Light Source' will be held 16 – 20 November, ESRF Grenoble France

(<http://www.esrf.eu/home/events/conferences/2015/afls-conference.html>)

C13 expressed its support to the initiative, agreed to send a representative to attend the above workshop, and looks forward to working with the IUPAP Council on a proposal for a project on the enhancement of the African light source users community to be submitted to the ICSU grant programme which will hopefully be advertised later this year.

2. Collaboration with IUCr

Michele Zema, on behalf of the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) was asked to give a presentation on the IUCr activities in Africa. C13 feels that there is a high degree of overlap between physics and crystallography, between IUPAP and IUCr, and with IUCr available resources (e.g. OPENLAB), particularly in view of the dissemination initiatives that IUCr is currently undertaking in the developing world. Although the precise form of the collaboration between the IUPAP (C13) and IUCr (Africa Initiative) has not been worked out yet, it is envisaged that it could take the form of joint support for workshops on themes of common interest.

3. C13 best poster/paper prizes for young scientists from developing countries attending IUPAP-sponsored conferences

C13 does not deal with a specific discipline within Physics, so it does not have its own "flagship" conference. However C13 would be happy to encourage the participation of brilliant young scientists from developing countries in conferences organized and sponsored by other IUPAP Commissions. C13 intends to make available small prizes (100/200 Euro) for the best posters/papers presented by scientists from developing countries at these conferences. C13 would be happy to discuss this possibility with other Commissions. Funding for the prizes would be minimal (a few hundred Euro/year) and could come from the budget already allocated to C13 (e.g. from the Conference sponsorship program).

4. C13 Associate members for 2015 – 2018

The four associate members proposed by C13 for the period 2015-2018 are: Kennedy Reed, François Piuzzi, Gorazd Planinsic (from C14 – Physics education), and a member of WG5 Women in Physics to be nominated by the WG5 chair.

The Director of the ICTP is normally an ex-officio associate member of C13. However the current Chair of C13 for the period 2015-2018 is also an ICTP staff (Scandolo), so in order to broaden the range of contributions to C13, the Commission has agreed to ask the current ICTP Director, Prof. Quevedo, to delegate the current C13 chair for any matter concerning the ICTP so as to make an extra slot of associate member available. It is understood that the Director of the ICTP will be reappointed as an associate member in the next triennium (2018-2021).

Sandro Scandolo, C13 Chair
12 October 2015