

IUPAP Commission Chairs and Council Meeting (Taipei, Taiwan) October 2016 Secretary General's Report for 2016

1. Finance

The financial statement for last year (2015) is included along with the performance against budget this year (2016) and the proposed budget for next year (2017), all of which will be covered in more detail under a separate agenda item.

2. Administration

Maitri Bobba has assumed most of the IUPAP secretariat work. Erin Ong Wanlin has helped with the design of the Newsletter and Toh-Miang Ng has continued his work to support the IUPAP website. Aside from Maitri, several staff from World Scientific, specifically Sun Han, has also contributed to the work for the secretariat of IUPAP for the year 2015-2016. The IUPAP now has its own physical premises at the Nanyang Technological University.

3. Proposal for General Assembly 2017

We received three proposals for hosting the General Assembly in 2017: two proposals from Brazil and one from China. At our previous C&CC meeting the proposal to hold the 2017 at Sao Paulo was accepted. As a separate agenda item at the meeting we need to hear some more about the details and to fix the dates

4. Social Media

The IUPAP has a twitter account, started by IOP in 2014 and a facebook account.

5. IUPAP Bulletin

Since our last e-meeting, the secretariat has published four issues of the IUPAP Bulletin: December 2015, March 2016, June 2016 and September 2016. In our March issue, the bulletin features an article by Albert Lazzarini (AC2: International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation) on "Discovery of a Binary Black Hole Merger by LIGO". In the same issue there was also a report on Wendelstein 7-X device in Germany (by Isabelle Milch). In the June 2016 issue, there is a report on the naming of elements 113, 115, 117 and 118 and the Monaco ITER International Fusion Days (M.Q. Tran, Vice-Chair C16: Plasma Physics). As in past minutes, we urge all Commission chairs to submit interesting articles about their physics area to the bulletin. The next bulletin will be published in December 2016.

6. Membership

In our last report, we mentioned about our contacts with Vietnam (via Prof. Tranh Tran Van), Thailand (Prof. Sukit Limpijumngong) and Brunei (Dr Joyce Teo Siew Yean, the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Global Affairs) of Universiti Brunei Darussalam). Dr Sparisoma Virdi (Indonesia) visited the IUPAP office in May 2016 and Bruce was invited to the Meeting of the Thai Physical Society in June and a conference in Vietnam in July. Good progress has been made. These countries should be invited to the next General Assembly in 2017.

7. Young Scientist Prize 2016

The IUPAP Young Scientist Prizes have been awarded to the following people:

Lisa Manning and Martin Lenz (C3: Statistical Physics)
Kimberly Dick Thelander and Samuel Stranks (C8: Semiconductors)
Wei Han (C9: Magnetism)
Wenzhong Bao (C10: Structure and Dynamics of Condensed Matter)*
Stefan Hoeche and Liangjian Wen (C11: Particle Physics)

Yu-Ao Chen (C15: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics)

Sam M. Vinko (C16: Plasma Physics)

Jianwei Sun (C20: Computational Physics)

Note that the deadline for the inaugural IUPAP Medal for outstanding contributions to the enhancement of Physics in developing countries ends on 31 July 2016 and the nomination for C12: Nuclear Physics is still ongoing.

* Mentioned in the last report

9. ICSU GRANT PRE-PROPOSALS

IUPAP has decided to submit the proposal “Utilization of Light Source and Crystallographic Sciences to Facilitate the Enhancement of Knowledge and Improve the Economic and Social Conditions in Targeted Regions of the World” (co-led with IUCr). For the WG5 proposal on “A Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics: how to measure it, how to reduce it”, IUPAP is not a lead applicant but it is a supporting applicant.

10. Obituary

A prominent member of past IUPAP committee, Katharine Gebbe, has recently passed away. A feature has been compiled for the IUPAP Newsletter. Also, some prominent members of the physics community, Ahmed Zewail, Deborah Jin and Kerson Huang have recently passed away.

K.K. Phua,
Secretary General, IUPAP