



International Association of Chemical Thermodynamics
IACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Conference Hall "Agat", Hotel Gromada,
Warsaw, Poland

Friday August 8th 2008 14.00 to 16.00

Present at the meeting:

Chairman	Dr. A.R.H. Goodwin
Past Chair	Prof. J.-P. E. Grolier
Secretary	Dr. J.H. Dymond
Treasurer	Prof. T.W. De Loos
Members	Prof. T. Atake Prof. J. Boerio-Goates Prof. M. Frenkel Prof. T.M. Letcher Prof. E. Vogel
Counsellors	Prof. S. Randzio
Observers	Dr. R. Chirico Prof. J. Fernández Prof. D. Jamragnath

1. Preliminary Matters, and any Announcements

The Chairman welcomed those present, and thanked Prof. Randzio for a most enjoyable and highly successful Conference. Prof. Randzio thanked Professor Grolier, the retiring Chair, and Dr. Dymond, Secretary, for all their work in connection with the Conference.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Prof. Li-Xian Sun, Prof. J.P.M. Trusler, Prof. A. Victorov, Prof. W.A. Wakeham and Professor Mary Anne White

3. Secretary's Business

The Secretary noted that a new Titular Member with expertise in the area of Thermodynamics would be required to serve on the IUPAC Physical and Biophysical Chemistry Division Committee from 2012-2015. This was advance notice for the election process, which will begin in 2010.

4. Treasurer's Report

The current Abbey bank balance is GBP 5317.34, but there are the following outstanding expenses:

- i) 50% of the costs of travel and subsistence for the Rossini Lecturer. It was recommended in the Report of the IACT Awards Committee in 2006 that IACT and ICCT share these costs.
- ii) the cost of the 5 Junior awards, at USD 500 each plus the cost of wire transfers.
- iii) £23.80 for the photocopying of 400 flyers for IACT.
- iv) the cost of framing the certificates which were awarded at this Conference.

It was agreed that the cash in hand of GBP 20.00 and USD 734.09 should be paid into the Abbey account, even though there would be a loss of money as a result of the currency change.

A further donation of USD 1000 has been promised by Elsevier, but apparently there had been problems in trying to pay this into the IACT bank account, because it is a Treasurer's account and does not have an IBAN number.

5. Sponsorship of IACT Activities

Prof. de Loos agreed to write to Elsevier with a list of Junior Award winners, to thank them for their donations and ask about future financial support. **ACTION: TdL**

Setaram and Exxon had been considered as possible sponsors of IACT activities, but nothing had come of these. Ideas for future consideration included:

- Prof. Ramjugernath's suggestion that IACT should consider corporate affiliation, whereby they could send one delegate free to each Conference.
- Prof. Frenkel's idea of having a company representative on the Board of Directors.
- The possibility of having the Rossini Lecture brought by a sponsor.
- Sponsorship of a reception

The Chairman undertook to set up a committee to consider fundraising activities. **ACTION: AG**

6. Book contracts

It was noted that IUPAC appears to have two main requirements for publishing a book with their name on it, namely: 4 % royalty, and more importantly, availability of the electronic version of the book after one year. Presumably the latter is for free, but that is not specified. It was agreed that authors/editors of books should seek to negotiate a 2% royalty for use of the IACT logo. Editors should also ensure that each author receives a free copy of the book, though it was appreciated that this might not be possible in the case of a multi-authored chapter.

7. ICCTs

7.1 21st ICCT, 2010, Tsukuba, Japan

Prof. Atake gave a PowerPoint presentation to show some of the facilities at the Conference site, Tsukuba International Congress Centre (Epochal Tsukuba), which is located in Tsukuba Science City. Further information can be obtained from <http://www.epochal.or.jp/english/index.html>. He also described some of the tourist attractions in the area, and noted that Tokyo was just 45 minutes away. The website for the Conference <http://www.icct2010.org> was launched on August 1st.

It was agreed that we should build up a large mailing list. Prof. Frenkel agreed to provide his list to Prof. Atake. **ACTION: MF**

7.2 22nd ICCT. Proposals from Brazil and Canada

The Secretary had prepared, and previously circulated, Summary Sheets from the information supplied in bid documents from the Proposers – Prof. Watson Loh (Bužios, Brazil) and Profs. John Shaw, Marco Satyro and Harvey Yarranton (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada). These sheets

listed the Conference venue, Conference dates, estimated number of participants, possible joint meetings, venue facilities, transportation from the international airport, weather, accommodation, registration fee, draft budget, composition of the executive committee, international advisory board and local organising committee, and draft scientific programme.

Professor Watson Loh gave a PowerPoint presentation in support of his bid. He was accompanied by 4 colleagues, including Dr Ricardo Belchior Torres, who had recently visited the Hotel and its conference center, and Prof. Frederico W Tavares, (Federal Univ of Rio de Janeiro) to answer queries specifically on local issues. Afterwards, he answered questions, pointing out that August 5-10 2012 was a less busy, and also less expensive, period and that the likely number of participants from Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico would be about 100. After this, the Brazilian delegation withdrew.

Unfortunately, none of the proposers of the Canadian bid was present, but the Secretary gave a presentation on their behalf, in which he highlighted the main points of their bid document.

After these presentations, Board members discussed the relative merits of the two bids. It was generally felt that the Canadian group could put on a very good Conference, but concern was expressed that Edmonton was booming and becoming a very expensive place to visit. Bužios in Brazil had the advantage there. The fact that ICCTs had been held previously in Canada, as recently as 2000 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but they had not been held previously in Brazil, was decisive and Board Members were unanimous in approving the Bužios bid.

From the experience of this 20th ICCT, it was recommended that, as here, i) there should be no more than 3 or 4 parallel sessions, ii) top researchers should be invited to give plenary talks (Prof. Gubbins attracted a full hall for his lecture on Education) and iii) consideration should be given to a symposium on “energy”.

7.3 *Future ICCTs*

Prof. Ramjugernath offered to host an ICCT in Durban, South Africa. Other possibilities were Perth, Western Australia (Prof. Glenn Hefter), and Russia (St. Petersburg).

Enquiries had also been received from Barbara Howlett, Sydney Convention Bureau and Ulrike von Arnold of the Vienna Convention Bureau to see if IACT would consider holding an ICCT in their cities. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to them for further information.

ACTION: JD

7.4 **Revision of Guidelines for Organisers of ICCTs**

The information required from proposers of ICCTs in bid documents should be clearly presented, as given on the Summary Sheets.

ACTION: JD

In addition:

a) we should query the need to request assistance in finding speakers for a session that perhaps should simply be cancelled for lack of interest, b) any email message containing a general request for money should be cleared with IACT Chairman beforehand, and c) any proposal for an invited speaker who comes from the same institution as one of the session chairmen should be referred to the IACT Chairman.

8. **Publications Standards Committee**

Concern was expressed that there appeared to be no requirement for manuscripts of books that result from IUPAC projects to be reviewed by the IUPAC Interdivisional Committee on Terminology, Nomenclature & Symbols. There was unanimous approval to set up a Publications Standards Committee (PSC), chaired by Prof. Ken Marsh, to check compliance of all books in future with the Green Book.

ACTION: ALL AUTHORS OF BOOKS

9. **Rossini Lectureship Award**

Prof. Frenkel proposed that the process of voting and selecting the Rossini lecturer should be reconsidered as, at present, if we proceed to a short list of more than two candidates, then the winner may not have the support of the majority of the Board of Directors. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to all Board Members to seek their views on setting up an Award Committee, under the Past Chair, which would check the applications against listed requirements. These would include i) a long-term contribution to thermodynamics, ii) a recognised ability of public speaking, iii) a long association with ICCT's, and iv) no self-nomination. Those nominations which passed this check would then be considered by all the Board Members, who would each place them in rank order, with "one" being the highest preference. The Secretary would total these votes and the two candidates with least votes would go forward for a final election.

ACTION: JD

10. **Matters arising from the 20th ICCT**

a) Some Poster Prize winners left before the end of the Conference, and were not present at the final ceremony to collect their awards. It was agreed that, in future, when Poster Prizes are given by IUPAC (or other sponsors), arrangements should be made for posters to be put up early in the Conference so that they can be judged, and the winners advised as soon as the results are known. When winners plan to leave before the end of the Conference, arrangements must be made to present their prize beforehand.

b) It was agreed that, in view of the financial difficulties which had arisen at this Conference, due to circumstances beyond the organisers' control, a letter should be sent to the IACT Secretary with a clear explanation if it is not possible to pay a sum equivalent to USD 20 per participant.

ACTION: SR

11. **IACT Sponsorship of Conferences and Poster Awards**

Members agreed that we should wait for Conference organisers to approach IACT with a request for sponsorship. These requests would then be put before the Board.

12. **Any Other Business**

Although an email had been sent to all participants before the Conference, informing them that they were members of IACT as a result of paying their registration fee for the ICCT, and Prof. Grolier had mentioned this at the Opening Ceremony, it was apparent that many participants were unaware of this and uncertain as to whether or not they could attend the IACT Business meeting. Prof. Letcher suggested that membership might be extended from the present two-year period to four years. However, it was felt that this would introduce additional problems. The Secretary pointed out that if there was a wish to amend the Association Bylaw ARTICLE III, Section 3, a proposal should be sent to him in time for him to send this out to all members of the Board of Directors at least fourteen days before the Board meeting at which a ballot will be taken, as per the Constitution, ARTICLE VI, Section 2.

13. **Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on July 2nd 2009 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, immediately after the European Symposium on Applied Thermodynamics.

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