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IUVSTA Emerging Societies Report

Trento, Italy, Hotel Villa Madruzzo, Saturday, March 29, 2014, 11:30 am

The IUVSTA Emerging Societies Committee meeting was opened at 11:30 am by the Chairman, Joe Greene, who welcomed all attendees. A list of committee members and observers is provided at the end of this report.

Joe presented a brief summary of activities over the previous triennium during which progress was made in developing contacts with scientific representatives of countries that are not presently members of IUVSTA. This is not only important for enhancing the visibility and vitality of the Union, but led to the addition of a new member society, the Asociacion Física of Argentina, thus bringing the number of member countries to 32.

The initial topic of discussion was concerned with how we, as a Union, present ourselves to the outside world. Several committee members expressed concern that, like many national vacuum societies, we are constrained by the term vacuum in our name. While vacuum-based research and technology is still very important to the Union, many of our members do not use vacuum at all and are more interested in, for example, solution-based synthesis and processing. Perhaps more importantly, there is a worry that our name may be inhibiting groups from joining our union. There was a question as to whether IUVSTA members have to be Vacuum Societies. The answer is no. In countries for which there are no Vacuum Societies, established groups representing scientific areas of interest to the Union may become members. An example is the Physical Society of Argentina.

Last triennium, a suggestion was made by Ron Reid that we consider adding a tag line to IUVSTA which better expresses the breadth of our union in dealing with the science and technology of materials, interfaces, nano/bio, etc. The issue is being pursued by the IUVSTA Long-Range Planning Committee which is also considering modifications of our name.

Discussion then focused on approaches for enhancing the visibility of IUVSTA in worldwide scientific and technological communities and increasing the membership in our union. It was clearly recognized that this is not a task for a single individual, but requires active participation of a broad cross-section of IUVSTA members (officers, committee chairs, councilors of member countries, and other active participants). That is, it is up to all of us to discuss the benefits of IUVSTA membership with our colleagues.

In fact, IUVSTA offers a wide range of professional services appropriate for interested persons across all educational levels: graduate students, post-doctoral students, scientists, technologists, managers, etc. The list proposed by Greene in Paris, was further developed to include:

- Triennial IUVSTA congresses
- Co-sponsor conferences (e.g., ICTF, ECOSS, EVC, VASSCA)
- Short courses

Workshops (designed for experts in the field)
 Schools (designed primarily for students or those moving into a new field)
 Technical Training Courses (designed primarily for technicians and engineers)
 Visual aids
 Technical material available on the IUVSTA website
 News Bulletins
 Welsh Scholarship Awards
 IUVSTA is a member of ICSU and UNESCO
 IUVSTA is involved with the development of relevant ISO standards
 IUVSTA provides a forum for interactions with international colleagues.

It was noted that one mechanism for familiarizing colleagues with IUVSTA is the use of a few powerpoint slides, describing the benefits and functions of IUVSTA, shown as introductory information at meetings and workshops or at the beginning of lectures and invited talks at conferences and other venues. Ron Reid has prepared information which can be used to construct appropriate slides. It is available on the IUVSTA website under: Member services/Meantime/Wiki/A simple guide to IUVSTA. Several ESC members and observers have reported using such slides and successfully generating new interactions.

In addition, the committee generally agreed that a very effective way to increase IUVSTA visibility is for each of us to volunteer to discuss IUVSTA activities and potential membership with colleagues we work closely with in non-member countries. The initial list generated in Namur was updated (see below) based on the resulting discussion. Everyone is invited to participate; please send me information regarding countries, contacts, addresses, and e-mail. Note that it is not necessary to be a committee member to participate.

The volunteer list includes:

Algeria: Daniel Verriere
 Baltic Countries: Laszlo Kover and Lars Montelius
 Bangladesh: Javaid Bhatti
 Bosnia: Monika Jenko
 Bulgaria: Ivan Petrov, Miran Mozetic
 Chile: M.G. Barthes-Labrousse
 Costa Rica: Jean-Jacques Pireaux
 Denmark: Lars Montelius
 Greece: Ron Reid, Miran Mozetic
 Ireland: Laszlo Kover
 Malaysia: Jean-Jacques Pireaux
 Nepal: Mark Kushner
 Norway: Lars Montelius, Laszlo Kover, Joe Greene
 Philippines: David Ruzic
 Romania: Nikola Radic
 Saudia Arabia: Bill Rogers, Ron Reid
 Singapore: Joe Greene
 Serbia: Miran Mozetic
 South Africa: Jean-Jacques Pireaux
 Turkey: Laszlo Kover, Martin Wuest, Anouk Galtayries, Sefik Suzer

Vietnam: David Ruzic

Another topic of discussion by the Emerging Societies Committee was the establishment of a IUVSTA "Global Development Conference Series" as proposed by Maria Asensio and Monika Jenko. The concept is to hold international scientific conferences, preferably in countries not yet members of IUVSTA, which also contain sessions and/or events, such as panel discussions, focused on important social issues which are common to most emerging societies. A likely candidate for the first one is Argentina, partnering with the US Materials Research Society whose President last year was Orlando Auciello, a native of Argentina and also interested in the idea. One possibility is that MRS provides seed money for the GD Conference and IUVSTA provides the local contacts and organizers.

Looking to the future, many committee members felt that there are larger international agencies such as ICSU and UNESCO who are already promoting such conferences and we might do better to partner with them. Another possibility is that IUVSTA consider providing some seed funds for an IUVSTA Workshop or School that is a satellite to an international Global Development Conference

Finally, there was discussion regarding a suggestion promoted by David Sykes that we consider developing a program for sending IUVSTA-sponsored speakers/experts to selected emerging countries upon request. This would be another avenue for positive interaction while providing a useful service.

The Emerging Societies committee adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,



D.B. Willett Professor of Materials Science and Physics, University of Illinois, USA
Tage Erlander Professor of Physics, Linköping University, Sweden
Univ. Chair of Materials Science, National Taiwan University of Science & Technology

Committee members in attendance:

Mariano Anderle
Maria Ascensio
Javaid Ahsan Bhatti
Cristoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
Monica Jenko
Lars Montelius
Miran Mozetic
Jean-Jacques Pireaux
Nikola Radic
Francois Reniers

David Ruzic.

Observers in attendance:

Ute Bergner
Giacomo Ceccone
Francesco Fracassi
Anouk Galtayries
Jay Hendricks
Gao-Yu Hsiung
Janez Kovac
Manfred Leisch
Slobodan Milosevic
Frank Richter
Peter Scharf
David Sykes
Jazek Szuber
Christian Teichert
Bonnie Tyler