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IUVSTA Emerging Societies Report

Morgan Hill, California, USA, Holiday Inn Express, Friday, October 23, 2015, 5:00 pm

The IUVSTA Emerging Societies Committee meeting was opened at 5:00 pm 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, as well as the past 12 months, 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 last year, the Asociacion Física of Argentina, thus bringing the number of member countries to 32. He noted that we will hear later in this meeting that three more societies are expected to have their paperwork completed to join IUVSTA at the Busan IVC General Meeting which would further raise the number of members to 35. In addition, there are several other countries expressing interest

The initial topic of discussion was concerned with how we, as a Union, present ourselves to the outside world. There is a concern that, like many national vacuum societies, IUVSTA is also 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.

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 Joe at the last IVC in Paris, was further developed to include:

- Triennial IUVSTA IVC congresses
- Co-sponsored 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.

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 presently includes:

Algeria: Daniel Verriere
 Baltic Countries: Laszlo Kover and Lars Montelius
 Bangladesh: Javaid Bhatti
 Bosnia: Monika Jenko
 Bulgaria: Ivan Petrov
 Chile: Pedro Nascente
 Costa Rica: Jean-Jacques Pireaux
 Denmark: Lars Montelius, Ulf Helmersson
 Greece: Miran Mozetic
 Ireland: Laszlo Kover
 Malaysia: Jean-Jacques Pireaux
 Nepal: Mark Kushner
 Norway: Lars Montelius, Laszlo Kover, Joe Greene
 Philippines: David Ruzic, Joe Greene
 Romania: Nikola Radic, Joe Greene
 Saudia Arabia: Bill Rogers
 Singapore: Joe Greene
 Serbia: Miran Mozetic
 South Africa: Jean-Jacques Pireaux
 Turkey: Anouk Galtayries, Sefik Suzer, Mehmet Bakara, Joe Greene
 Vietnam: David Ruzic, Mariano Anderle.

Countries which have recently expressed strong interest in joining IUVSTA are Bulgaria, a lapsed founding member of IUVSTA, Turkey, and the Philippines. The primary IUVSTA volunteers working with representatives from these countries are Ivan Petrov for Bulgaria, Anouk Galtayries and Joe Greene for Turkey, and David Ruzic and Joe Greene for the Philippines.

Professor Mehmet Baykara from Bilkent University, Turkey, had planned to make a PowerPoint presentation at this Emerging Societies Committee meeting summarizing the present situation. However, he was forced to rush home during the AVS conference earlier this week due to a death in the family. Joe presented the slides and discussion on his behalf. IN summary, the Surface Science Society of Turkey was founded ad hoc in 2011 spearheaded by Professor Sefik Suzer (also at Bilkent University and an AVS Fellow). It is a very active group and members helped organize ECASIA 2009 and ECOSS 2014 in Turkey, as well as the annual NanoTR conferences, and several local workshops. The formal by-laws of the society are being formalized right now and the official application to the Turkish government will immediately follow with final legal status expected within approximately two months. The society will then apply to join IUVSTA in early 2016.

Ivan Petrov reported that Bulgaria (an IUVSTA founding country) has filled out the necessary paperwork and expects to rejoin IUVSTA at the end of the triennium. In addition, Joe Greene visited Romania early this year and found that they are in the process of formally launching the Romanian Society for Vacuum Science and Technology and are also interested in joining IUVSTA.

Joe also noted that a group in the Philippines, spurred by David Ruzic, has initiated a Vacuum Society there and is planning to hold their inaugural scientific conference on January 14-15, 2016, at the Ateneo de Manila University, in Quezon City, Philippines. Joe is scheduled to present the Plenary Lecture and David will give an invited talk. They have written to say they are also interested in joining IUVSTA.

Finally, there was brief 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 5:45 pm.

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
Cristoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
Anouk Galtayries
Joe Greene
Jean-Jacques Pireaux
Nikola Radic
David Ruzic
Geun-Young Yeom.

Observers in attendance:

Ulf Helmersson
Leszek Markowski
Stanislov Novak
Reinhard Schwarz
David Sykes
Andrej Vincze.