

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 127

Jpark Island Resort and Waterpark, Cebu Island, The Philippines

1. General

This report covers the period from ECM 126 in Sofia, Bulgaria, in September 2017, to now, February 2018. I sincerely would like to once again thank the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria for hosting us in the beautiful city of Sofia. It was the first meeting organized after the return of the Bulgarian vacuum community to the Union, and also ECM 127 is the first meeting organized by our new member society, the Vacuum Society of the Philippines. I would like to thank the Vacuum Society of the Philippines for taking the effort to organize ECM 127 here in Cebu Island. The two events show that our Union is gradually growing, and it is to be anticipated that this development continues.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 126 were posted on the web site by the Recording Secretary. As some reports are missing I would urge all Committee Secretaries to ensure that the Recording Secretary receives these as soon as possible for posting. Therefore I would appreciate it if committee chairs and division chairs could supply up to date information to the recording secretary. Our minutes are a written proof of the events which happened at an ECM and are specifically important if financial commitments were made. They bear official value and may have to be supplied to authorities on short notice, so these should be easily accessible by our members.

The re-design of our website is in full progress, and I would like to specifically thank John Kudelka and Ivan Petrov for the huge work that they have done (and still do) to facilitate this process.

3. Web Matters

I use our web-site to post relevant up-to-date information. So please use the members section of the website to find information on e. g. the names and contact e-mails of all persons involved in the Union, Officers, Councillors and Alternates. Division Officers, Division Members and Committee Members can also be found there. All relevant data have been updated, but if any of you spots errors or inconsistencies, please let me know.

4. New Memberships

The emerging Societies Committee is keeping track on potential new members, among them Turkey and Romania. There are also contacts with Cuba and Singapore. At this time no new formal developments are known. I would like to express my thanks to all persons, and especially to the members of the Emerging Societies Committee, for their continuous efforts in soliciting new members.

5. Interactions with other Bodies

5.1 International Bodies

Most material now comes from UNESCO, ICSU and ISO by email, although there is, however, some hardcopy material, especially from UNESCO. Within the liaison of the Union with ISO, ASSD and VSTD links to selected Technical committees.

In July 2018 ICSU and ISSC (International Social Science Council) will merge to a new organization, the International Science Council (ISC). As ICSU acts as the lead organization, all memberships and associations will remain untouched. If more information on this event is needed, I will be happy to provide it.

5.2 Commercial Bodies

Many convention centres, travel agents, etc., contact me with offers to host conferences and meetings. If your Society is looking for a venue, contact me and I will check to see if I have any information on anything in your vicinity that might be of interest.

6. Future Executive Council Meetings

At ECM 127 a call for bids for ECM 129 was issued. One bid was received, which will be discussed during ECM 127.

7. Finally

The year 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of the Union which was founded in 1958 in Namur. In 2018 we will have several meetings associated to the Union, like EVC-15, 17 - 22 June 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland and VASSCAA-9 in August 2018 at Cronulla, Australia. It is anticipated to include special events to celebrate the 60 years anniversary in some of these events, and the celebration cycle will culminate at IVC 21, July 1 – 5, 2019 in Malmö, Sweden.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
February 2018