

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 128
Powerhouse Museum (Boardroom) 500 Harris St, Sydney, Australia

1. General

This report covers the period from ECM 127 in Cebu Island, The Philippines, in February 2018, to now, August 2018. I sincerely would like to once again thank the Vacuum Society of the Philippines for hosting us in the beautiful surroundings of Cebu Islands. It was the first meeting organized by this young society, and the organization and venue of this meeting can be considered as excellent. As regarding ECM 128, I would like to thank the Vacuum Society of Australia for taking the effort to organize ECM 128 here in Sydney, in conjunction with VASSCAA-9. Many participants of ECM 128 are looking forward to actively participate in this exciting conference.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 127 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 bear official value and may have to be supplied to authorities on short notice, so these should be easily accessible by our members.

Our new website is now online and offers a modern and new appearance. Nonetheless, as of now, most of the content is simply transferred from the old IUVSTA homepage. Therefore, as the Union has implemented the redesigned Welch scholarship and will also offer new awards (e. g. the newly incepted EBARA award), the content of the website needs to be thoroughly scrutinized and updated.

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.

I also would appreciate it if representatives of our member societies could send me an update if their governing bodies change. Since the societies have different voting cycles and periods, it is hard to keep track on all changes without input. I also apologize if mails to our societies do not reach the actual society officials for this reason.

4. New Memberships

The emerging Societies Committee is keeping track on potential new members. 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) merged to a new organization, the International Science Council (ISC). As ICSU acts as the lead organization, all memberships and associations will remain untouched. The merger was agreed by the member societies at a virtual

general assembly in May 2018. 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. Exchange of the alternate Councillor of Brazil

The Brazilian Vacuum Society has requested to exchange their current Alternate Councillor, Rogerio Pinto Mota by Marcelo Juni Ferreira, who has more possibilities to attend our meetings. Although this is an uncommon step during a triennium, our statutes allow such a change in connection with an agreement of ECM, which will be requested during ECM 128.

7. Future Executive Council Meetings

All future ECMs of the Triennium, i. e. ECM 129, to be held in Regensburg, Germany from 29th – 31st March, 2019, ECM 130 and 131 (first formal meeting of the new triennium), in conjunction with IVC 21 in Malmö, July 1 – 5, 2019 are fixed. Also the second meeting of the new triennium, ECM 132, will be by invitation of the incoming President, Anouk Galtayries. Therefore, at this ECM, no call for future ECMs was issued.

8. Finally

The year 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of the Union which was founded in 1958 in Namur. At EVC-15, which took place from 17 - 22 June 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland we had an excellent 60th anniversary event at the Globe, close to CERN. Right after this ECM and at VASSCAA-9 we will also have separate events for this occasion, and the participants of ECM 128 are cordially invited to attend these. The celebration cycle will culminate at IVC 21, July 1 – 5, 2019 in Malmö, Sweden.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
August 2018