

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 129 SORAT Hotel Insel, Regensburg, Germany

1. General

This report covers the period from ECM 128 in Sydney, Australia, in August 2018, to now, March 2019. I sincerely would like to once again thank the Vacuum Society of Australia (VSA) for hosting us in the vibrant city of Sydney. ECM 128 and the following VASSCAA-9 conference showcased the activities of Australia in vacuum science and related fields. The organization of these meetings by the VSA can be considered as excellent in regard to venue, scientific quality and embedding into public events like the Sydney Science Festival. As regarding ECM 129, I would like to thank the German Vacuum Society for taking the effort to organize ECM 129 here in Regensburg, in conjunction with the Spring Meeting of the German Physical Society (DPG), which features a "Day of Vacuum" on April 1st, embedded in the meeting of the condensed matter section of DPG. I also would like to express my special thanks to the German IUVSTA Councillor, Ute Bergner, for giving some of us the opportunity to visit her VACOM company, which showed the economically rewarding aspects of vacuum technology in an impressive manner.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 128 were posted on the web site by the Recording Secretary. I urge all Committee Secretaries to ensure that the Recording Secretary receives their reports as soon as possible for posting. 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. The newsletter and the newflash issued and designed by the Communications Committee offer timely and up-to date information on events, meetings and relevant literature related to vacuum science and associated fields. I would like to thank especially Ivan Petrov for his effort to keep these publications on a high informative level.

As our 20th General Meeting (GM 20) approaches, I have solicited the data of the new National Representatives, the new Division Representatives and the members of the delegations to GM 20. I have received these from almost all member societies, but I am still lacking information from Argentina, India, The Netherlands and Pakistan. Any help in obtaining said data from these societies is highly appreciated.

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.

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, which is constantly done as new features on the site such as electronic submission forms come into operation. For immediate response whenever troubles occur I convey special thanks to our Webmaster, John Koudelka.

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

In July 2018 ICSU and ISSC (International Social Science Council) merged to a new organization, the International Science Council (ISC). The merger was agreed by the member societies at a virtual general assembly in May 2018, and as of now no formal changes regarding the membership of the Union have shown up.

Most material now comes from UNESCO, ISC 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.

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

All future ECMs of the Triennium, i. e. ECM 130 which will be held right before IVC 21 from June 28 – 30 in Malmö and ECM 131 (first formal meeting of the new triennium; July 3rd, 2019, right after GM 20), 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 is issued. A call for bids for ECM 133 and 134 will be issued before ECM 130.

8. Finally

2019 is the final year of the Triennium 2016 – 2019 and the second year of the 60th anniversary cycle of the Union which was founded in 1958 in Namur. The culmination point of this cycle will be IVC 21, from July 1 – 5, 2019 in Malmö, Sweden, where the new Triennium will start featuring the newly designed Welch Scholarship, which is now financially secured because of the generous support of the Bro Family, and the new IUVSTA EBARA award which will be given at IVC 21 for the first time.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
March 2019