

Report of Secretary General to GM-20
on
Triennium 2016-2019
Malmö, Sweden, 3rd July 2019

1 Period and activities

This report covers the period from, Wednesday, 24th August 2016 till the official end of the triennium on Wednesday, 3rd July 2019. It should be noted that the Financial Triennium (on which the Treasurer will report) covers the three financial years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The major activities of the Secretary General during this period were:

- general administration and correspondence
- organization of the Executive Committee Meetings with the assistance of the host National Societies
- organization of GM20 in conjunction with the organizing agents for the International Vacuum Congress
- updating and maintaining various parts of the web site
- keeping track of procedural changes and updating the procedures manual
- interactions with UNESCO, ICSU, ISO, and other organizations

Some of the main points are presented below. More detailed and complete information is available in the reports to the various Executive Council Meetings, which are all available on the website.

2 Relations with other Bodies

2.1 UNESCO

IUVSTA is a corresponding member of UNESCO, and an associate member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

There are reports on many meetings and conferences but essentially none are of interest to the IUVSTA community.

We also receive invitations to meetings, which, when relevant, are passed to IUVSTA members, but as far as I am aware, none have been attended this triennium.

2.2 ICSU

IUVSTA was an associate member of the International Council of Science (ICSU). In 2018 ICSU merged with the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC) to form the International Science Council, ISC. The relations of IUVSTA with this new entity remain unchanged. Again, most material is now disseminated by email. The ISC aims to promote international scientific and technological activities that contribute to the benefit and well-being of society but ISC will not normally support travel grants to attend standard scientific meetings and conferences, nor support fellowship programmes.

2.3 ISO

IUVSTA has liaison status with ISO, and is represented on two Technical Committees: TC201 on surface analysis and TC112 on Vacuum Technology.

TC201 is quite active, and during this triennium the relations to TC112 have been revived by the Vacuum Science and Technology Division of IUVSTA. The relevant IUVSTA Divisions maintain contact and contribute on behalf of the Union. The weekly newsletter STADIST which lists information on newly issued, revised and withdrawn standards is distributed by email. Members interested in the work of ISO are referred to the website www.iso.ch.

2.4 Commercial Bodies

I receive copious quantities of literature and invitations from Congress Centres, meetings organizers and hotels around the world.

3 National Vacuum Societies

I maintain correspondence with National Vacuum Societies. I am grateful to those Societies which promptly inform me of changes in Officers so that correspondence goes to the relevant persons. It was with pleasure that we received an application for membership from Cuba.

4 Communications and Documentation

4.1 Communications

The vast bulk of communication is now by email, but I am trying to put a more active role to the web site for documentation and sharing of information.

4.2 Procedures Manual, Statutes and By Laws

The Procedures Manual, Statutes and By-Laws are available on the website.

4.3 Web Site

The web site which is hosted by the University of Illinois now plays a major role for our communication and the distribution of information. Thanks are due to Ivan Petrov, Chair of Publications and John Koudelka, the webmaster, for their hard work in maintaining and improving the site.

The ECM Minutes and Papers are placed in the Records Area of the Members' part of the web site by the Recording Secretary as soon after each ECM as the material is available. Information on current matters is put into the Members' part of the web site, Meantime area, by the Secretary General.

5 Executive Council Meetings

The following Executive Council Meetings have been held during the Triennium

- ECM 124 Busan, Korea, 25 August 2016
- ECM 125 Rogla, Slovenia, 30 March 2017
- ECM 126 Sofia, Bulgaria 1 October 2017
- ECM 127 Cebu Island, the Philippines, 11 February 2018
- ECM 128 Sydney, Australia, 12 August 2018
- ECM 129 Regensburg, Germany, 31 March 2019
- ECM 130 Malmö, Sweden, 30 June 2019

In each case (apart from ECM 124) the meeting was preceded by two days of Committee and other meetings.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to all those who made arrangements for all these meetings; this requires considerable effort to coordinate travel and meetings information in a timely fashion. Thanks are also due to those societies which made offers to host the meetings and for their hospitality.

6 Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who have helped to make my task easier on the past Triennium. Although serving in this position not for the first time, some actions may not run completely smooth and may seem on shor notice. However, I cannot remember any case where my counterparts where un-cooperative or non-responsive in urgent matters. I would like each person within the Union with whom UI worked closely together for their help. Finally, I would like to thank Deborah O'Connell for her important work as Recording Secretary. To provide consistent minutes from our Executive Council Meetings is an essential task for all legal matters concernin g the Union and therefore a vital part of our collaborative work.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
June 2019