



IFAC General Assembly Held Seoul, Korea 7 July, 2008

Contents:

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2008, Korea

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Forthcoming Events

The IFAC General Assembly is IFAC's supreme body, which meets once every three years to get a first-hand overview over the activities of the Federation in the past three years, to vote on any amendments to the IFAC Constitution and By-Laws and to elect the next President of IFAC and the IFAC Council as the body in which the management of IFAC is vested. The IFAC General Assembly always meets at the time, when the IFAC World Congress is held. In this and the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter you will get detailed reports on this triennial highlight of IFAC activities.

Thus, 37 out of 49 National Member Organizations were present with their Presidents or represented by proxy to listen to the reports of the IFAC President, the IFAC Vice-Presidents, representing the Technical Board and the Executive Board, who all gave account of the developments within IFAC.

The President, Wook-Hyun Kwon spoke of the introduction of IFAC PapersOnLine, which is probably the most important development in this triennium.

One major issue, which the President addressed, relates to the membership in IFAC. As is well known, member countries are represented in IFAC by one engineering society each, called National Member Organization (NMO). These NMOs represent all control engineers in the respective country. With 48 National Member Organizations, most European countries are represented in IFAC, as are North America with Canada and the USA, many South American states, several Asian countries, Australia and one country from the African continent. It is IFAC's aim to attract engineering societies from non-NMO countries to join IFAC. There are several countries with a very strong and highly advanced engineering community which are not represented in IFAC. To further this cause, the President had invited observers from such countries to attend the General Assembly meeting. The invitation had been taken up by representatives of several countries, in particular from Asia.

In her presentation to the General Assembly, the Technical Board Chair, S.L. Jämsä-Jounela gave an overview over the technical activities of the

past three years. The number of IFAC events had remained about the same as in the triennia before, their quality had been on a very high level. For the administrative operation of the Technical Board, for event evaluation and approval, a special website had been developed, which had proven to be very valuable and will be transferred to the IFAC server at the IFAC Secretariat in Laxenburg. All Technical Committees have their own website, which is directly maintained by the TC Chair. A special template will be developed to give IFAC TCs a clearly recognizable appearance.

All members of the General Assembly will receive, or have already received a letter from the IFAC Secretariat, asking them to nominate members to serve on the various Technical Committees. This is an important way to get a geographically wide-spread and high-quality membership in IFAC TCs.

The Chair of the Executive Board, Peter Fleming presented the activities of the Board over the past triennium. These activities had ranged from organizing and coordinating the IFAC Awards Program, participating in the establishment of IFAC PapersOnLine, monitoring the IFAC finances and keeping a close eye on IFAC operations. Due to the healthy financial situation of the Federation, no increase of membership fees is required.

Information was also provided on the IFAC Foundation, which is now fully operative and has already provided support for authors from developing countries to participate in the World Congress in Seoul. Further activities, such as the organization of regional courses are being prepared. The first major donation to the Foundation, which allowed its incorporation in Switzerland was made by W.H. Kwon. The French NMO is making a financial contribution, which is to be used for the support of authors participating in IFAC events in France. Potential donors are most cordially invited to have a look at the Foundation website, describing the purpose, aims and activities of the Foundation at <http://foundation.ifac-control.org/>

All these reports were unanimously approved by the General Assembly and were followed by the Election of the new leadership team of IFAC which includes the following persons:

The Tables of Contents of the IFAC Journals can be found respectively at

Automatica

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/automatica>

Control Engineering Practice

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/conengprac>

Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/engappai>

Journal of Process Control

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jprocont>

Annual Reviews in Control

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/arcontrol>

Journal on Mechatronics

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/mechatronics>

President	Alberto Isidori	IT
President-Elect	Ian Craig	ZA
Vice-President (TB Chair)	Iven Mareels	AU
Vice-President (EB Chair)	Roger Goodall	UK
Immediate Past President	Wook-Hyun Kwon	KR
Treasurer	Lino Guzzella	CH
Ordinary Members	Frank Allgoewer	DE
	Luis Basanez	ES
	A. Talha Dinibütün	TR
	Torkel Glad	SE
	Lei Guo	CN
	Abraham Haddad	US
	Hidenori Kimura	JP
	Alexander B. Kurzhanski	RU
	Arturo Molina	MX
	Jurek Sasiadek	CA
	Michael Sebek	CZ
	Janan Zaytoon	FR

Following the elections, the newly elected President, Alberto Isidori, took the floor and addressed the General Assembly:



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an immense honor and a privilege to address this distinguished Assembly. In the first instance, I wish to express my profound gratitude to all representatives of the National Member Organizations of IFAC who are here today, for their continued support and their fundamental contribution to the progress of the Federation.

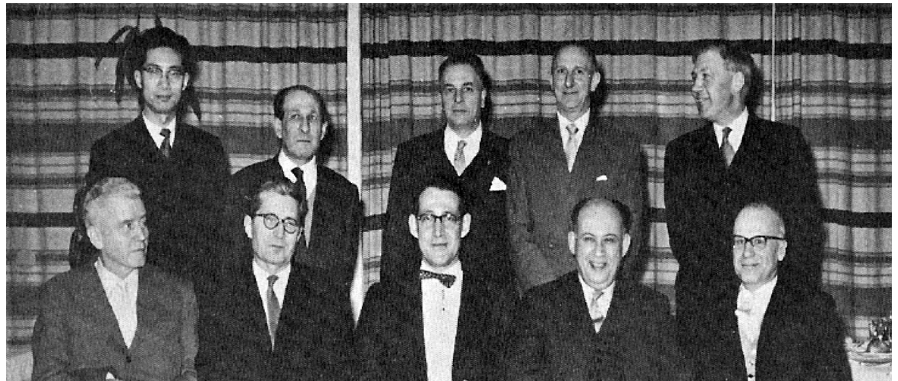
I also wish to express my sincerest thanks to all previous leaders of IFAC, for having managed the Federation so well until today. In particular, I wish to congratulate Professor Kwon for his vision and for his achievements. Professor Kwon's term of office will be long remembered, in IFAC's history, as the term in which, because of his most generous donation, the IFAC Foundation activities took off, and the term in which the new procedure for publication of Proceedings of all IFAC technical meetings, which now we have learned to call IFAC-PapersOnLine, became a reality.

When Professor Kwon addressed the General Assembly in July 2005 in Prague, I took some notes. Reading these notes a couple of days ago, I have discovered that he said "I am afraid I will have little to achieve". Well, in front of the great achievements of Prof. Kwon's Presidency, I should be totally scared, not just only afraid, of having so little to achieve myself.

Then, I would like to express my gratitude to the Council for having awarded to Italy the Presidency for the 2008-2011 triennium and the World Congress in 2011. My heartfelt thanks go to the colleagues of the Italian team who worked hard to put this successful proposal together and for

having proposed my name for the office of President. This was a true team effort, conducted by Edoardo Mosca, Sergio Bittanti, Claudio Bonivento, Giorgio Picci, Roberto Tempo and myself. Italians, sometimes, lack abilities for team work (as you may know, in Italian music, solo singers are usually preferred to choirs). But this was not the case in the work for the proposal for IFAC 2011. The team worked very well and very harmoniously together and the result has arrived.

Automatic Control has a long tradition in Italy, dating back more or less to the times at which IFAC was conceived. The second meeting of the Executive Board of IFAC was held in Italy (In Heidelberg, Steve Kahne showed a nice group picture of this event, and in the caption we could read "Rome, 1958").



As you might have seen from the booklet that we produced six years ago, we in Italy treasure our tradition of involvement and contribution to IFAC very much. For many of us, IFAC events have been the first opportunity for interaction with the international scientific community.

This was indeed the case for myself, as the first international conference I ever attended (and in which I presented a paper) was the IFAC World Congress in Warsaw in 1969. This occurred after an adventurous and long two-day drive from Rome, with my wife, in our small FIAT car. Soon after, the IFAC family adopted me. First through participation in Technical Committees. I remember having attended the first meeting of the newly established TC on "Mathematics of Control", held in Udine in 1976 after a rather disastrous earthquake that had struck the region only a couple of week before. Later I became involved in more and more active roles.

Then, some 40 years since my first timid step into the IFAC world, the unthinkable has happened: I am here to address the General Assembly and to speak of the future of IFAC.

I am particularly fortunate for having learned to walk in the footsteps of very successful leaders, who have made IFAC a solid and steadily growing organization.

My duties will be to make IFAC even more successful, efficient and financially sound. But, above all, my duties will be to make IFAC, and - in a broader sense - control science and engineering, attractive for larger and larger sets of young talents. I promise to invest all my energies, in these forthcoming three years, to the achievement of this.

Enormous goals have been achieved in the past triennium: we should not let the momentum decrease. New NMOs must be reached. The activity of the IFAC Foundation, supporting less advantaged scientists and addressing general needs of the society, should be supported by an aggressive fund-raising campaign. The advantages of our

new Proceedings publication system, notably the free access and the citation possibilities, should be appropriately exploited to promote IFAC among scientists and engineers.

Sound finances should also be kept. Someone has observed that the free-download scheme is not financially viable in the long run. Well, our challenge will be to disprove this forecast.

Technical excellence is our concern. In a world in which dissemination of information has become a possibility for everybody, maintaining the highest technical level of scientific excellence is the only way in which an organization like ours can prosper. This is achieved by the top-level quality of the Editorial teams of our Journals (I take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent business partnership with our publisher Elsevier), and

through the excellence of our Technical Board and our Technical Committees. Altogether, these Committees can count on the high professional competence and volunteer effort of about 2000 individuals. It is in view of the need of maintaining absolute high standard of technical excellence that only peer reviewed papers will be published on IFAC-PapersOnLine.

As Karl Astrom observed in his address to the IFAC 50 Celebration gathering in 2006, control science and engineering is now experiencing a third phase of development (the first one characterized by the development of servomechanisms in the 40s, and the second occurred with the advent of the computers and the rush to space, in the 60s). This phase is characterized by developments that are well within the reach of the general public (think, for instance, of the Electronic Stability Programs in cars). This should provide an opportunity to render control "a manifest technology".

I am particularly lucky to begin a term of office with the help of an outstanding team of leaders, and with the advice and support of past leaders who have so successfully run IFAC before. Vladimir Kucera, Wook Kwon, Ian Craig, Sirkka-Liisa Jamsa-Jounela, Iven Mareels, Peter Fleming, Roger Goodall, Lino Guzzella, Kurt Schlacher are people to whom I am particularly grateful for all they have done so far and whom I will not cease to ask for help, support and advice. And the colleagues of the Italian Team, whom I have mentioned before, are pillars on which the success of the 2011 IFAC World Congress in Milan rests. Under the leadership of Sergio Bittanti, the General Chair of the Congress, the Organizing Committee is already at work and I rest assured, and all of you who know Sergio, will feel the same, that an impeccable and memorable event will take place.

Alberto Isidori



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2008
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Title	2008	Place	Further Information
4th IPME/IFAC Conference Structural Control – 4ECSC	September 08 - 12	St. Petersburg Russia	http://www.ipme.ru/ipme/conf/4ecsc e-mail: 4ecsc@director.ipme.ru
Ewics/IFAC Conference Computer Safety, Reliability and Security - SAFECOMP 2008	September 22 – 25	Newcastle upon Tyne UK	http://safecomp2008.org/ e-mail: M-A.Sujan@warwick.ac.uk
IFAC Workshop 9th Intelligent Manufacturing Systems - IMS 2008	October 09 – 10	Szczecin Poland	http://ims08.ps.pl e-mail: ims08@ps.pl
IFAC Workshop 3rd Fractional Differentiation and its Applications – FDA'08	November 05 – 07	Ankara Turkey	http://www.cankaya.edu.tr/fda08 e-mail: fda08@cankaya.edu.tr
IFAC Workshop Logistics	December 05 – 06	Santiago Chile	http://www.ifac-iwl2008.co.cc/ e-mail: to be announced
Title	2009	Place	Further Information
IFAC Workshop Programmable Devices and Embedded Systems – PDeS 2009	February 10 – 12	Roznov Czech Rep.	http://pdes2009.vsb.cz e-mail: to be announced
IMACS/IFAC Conference Mathematical Modelling – MATHMOD 09	February 11 – 13	Vienna Austria	http://www.mathmod.at/ e-mail: inge.troch@stadtkirche.at
IFAC Workshop Control Applications of Optimization - CAO	May 06 – 08	Agora Finland	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Conference Fieldbuses and Networks in Industrial and Embedded Systems – FeT 2009	May 20 – 22	Ansan Korea	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Information Control Problems in Manufacturing - INCOM 2009	June 03 – 05	Moscow Russia	http://incom09.org/ e-mail: noc@incom09.org
IFAC Workshop 2nd Dependable Control of Discrete Systems - DCDS'09	June 10 – 12	Bari Italy	http://dcds09.poliba.it e-mail: dcds09@deemail.poliba.it
IFAC Symposium Robust Control Design – ROCOND	June 16 – 18	Haifa Israel	http://www.technion.ac.il/~rocond09 e-mail: rocond09@technion.ac.il
IFAC Conference Analysis and Control of Chaotic Systems - CHAOS 2009	June 22 – 24	London UK	http://www.elec.qmul.ac.uk/chaos09 e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Workshop Aerospace Guidance, Navigation and Flight Control Systems - AGNFCS	June 30 - July 2	Samara Russia	http:// to be announced e-mail: agnfcs09@ssc.smr.ru
IFAC Symposium Fault Detection, Supervision and Safety for Technical Processes – SAFEPROCESS	June 30 - July 3	Barcelona Spain	http://safeprocess09.upc.es/ e-mail joseba.quevedo@upc.edu
IFAC/CIGRE Symposium Power Plants und Power Systems	July 05 - 08	Tampere Finland	http://pppsc09.automaatioseura.fi/ e-mail: office@atu.fi

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (ctd.)

IFAC Symposium Identification and System Parameter Estimation- SYSID'09	July 06 - 08	St. Malo France	http://www.sysid2009.org/ e-mail: secretariat@sysid2009.org
IFAC Symposium Advanced Control of Chemical Processes - ADCHEM 2009	July 12 - 15	Istanbul Turkey	http://www.adchem09.ku.edu.tr/ e-mail: dburak@ku.edu.tr
IFAC Symposium Modelling and Control in Biological and Medical Systems – - MCBMS 09)	August 12 – 14	Aalborg Denmark	http://www.mcbms09.hst.aau.dk/ e-mail: mcbms09@hst.aau.dk
European Control Conference - in cooperation with IFAC -	August 23 – 26	Budapest Hungary	http://www.conferences.hu/ecc09/ ecc09@conferences.hu
IFAC Symposium Control in Transportation Systems - CTS 2009	September 02 – 04	Redondo Beach CA, USA	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Robot Control. – SYROCO 2009	September 10 – 12	Gifu Japan	http://www.syroco2009.org/ e-mail: syroco2009_office@syroco2009.org
IFAC Conference Analysis and Design of Hybrid Systems - ADHS 09	September 16 – 19	Zaragoza Spain	http://diisconf.cps.unizar.es/adhs09/web/ e-mail: adhs09@unizar.es
IFAC Workshop Mining, Mineral and Metal Industry	October 21 – 23	Viña del Mar Chile	http: to be announced e-mail: to be announced
Title	2010	Place	Further Information
IFAC Symposium Large Scale Systems: Theory and Applications – LSS 2010	July 11 – 14	Villeneuve d'Ascq France	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing	August 02 – 04	Cape Town South Africa	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Nonlinear Control Systems – NOLCOS 2010	September 01 - 03	Bologna Italy	http://www.nolcos2010.unibo.it/ e-mail: imarconi@deis.unibo.it
IFAC Symposium Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles - IAV	September 06 - 08	Lecce Italy	http: to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Conference Management and Control of Production and Logistics – MCPL-2010	September 08 – 10	Coimbra Portugal	http://www.dei.uc.pt/MCPL2010 to be opened e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Mechatronic Systems	September 13 – 15	Boston, MA USA	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced

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