

# Minutes of the IUPAP EC&CC Meeting

meeting via Zoom, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Documents available on the indico page.

## Participants

Michel Spiro - President

Jens Vigen - Secretary General for Financial and Legal Affairs

Silvina Ponce Dawson - President-Designate

Rudzani Nemetudi - Associate Secretary General

Gabriella Marra – Secretary

Stefano Fantoni – Secretary General for Administrative Affairs

Sandro Scandolo - Deputy Secretary General for Administrative Affairs

Leon Chuan Kwek - Former Deputy Secretary General as representative for the IUPAP Office in Singapore

Boris Sharkov – Treasurer

Monica Pepe – Altarelli – Vice President at Large (Centenary)

Gillian Butcher - Vice-President at Large (Gender Champion)

Nithaya Chetty - Vice-President at Large (Membership)

Irvy (Igle) Gledhill - Past Chair, IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics

Laura H. Greene - Vice-President at Large (Outreach and Ethics)

Lucilla de Arcangelis - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C3 Chair

Takaaki Kajita - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C4 Chair

Naoto Nagaosa - C5 Chair

Masaki Sasai - C6 Chair

Young Dong Kim - C8 Chair/ Liaison Chair Korean Physical Society

Kai Liu - C9 Chair

Tae Won Noh - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C10 Chair

Florenca Canelli - C11 Chair

Kuijuan Jin - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C13 Chair

Tetyana Antimirova - Vice-President at Large from the Commission Chairs/ C14 Chair

Rosario Gonzalez-Ferez - C15 Chair

Sylvie Jacquemont - C16 Chair

Roberto Pini - C17 Chair

Alan Joye - C18 Chair

Pietro Ubertini - C19 Chair

Jun'ichi Yokoyama – C19 Vice-Chair

Andrew Horsfield - C20 Vice-Chair

John Howell - AC1 Chair

Nils Andersson - AC2 Chair

John Damilakis - AC4 Chair

Jaume Navarro - AC6 Chair

Ana Maria Cetto - WG18 Chair

Anisa Qamar – Liaison Chair Pakistan, WG5 member

Angela Bracco - WG9 Chair

Nilofaar Jokar - AC5 / Vice President IAPS

Cyrus Pan Walther - AC5 Chair / President IAPS / WG16 Vice President

Eberhard Widmann - C12 Secretary

Gianluigi Arduini - WG14 Chair

Jo van den Brand - WG11

Jun'ichi Yokoyama - C19 Vice Chair

Lilia Meza-Montes - WG5 Vice Chair

Luis Vina - Liaison Chair Spain

Yuan-Hann Chan – Liaison Chair for The Physical Society located in Taipei

Maria Jose Garcia Borge - C12 Vice Chair  
Mark Hamilton - AC3  
Mei-Yin Chou - C20 Chair  
Michael Rubinstein - WG15 Chair  
Michael Taroudakis - AC3  
Pietro Ferraro C17 Associate Member  
Marc Himbert – C2 Chair  
Madan Rehani - AC4 – IOMP Past President  
Pavel Exner - Liaison Chair Czech Republic  
Robert Sporcken – Liaison Chair Belgium  
Feras Afanel, Liaison Chair Jordan  
Li Lu, Liaison Chair for the Chinese Physical Society China, Beijing  
Halina Rubinsztein-Dunlop – Australia  
Christoph Rossel –WG16 Chair  
Atlas Varsted – IAPS  
Ani Aprahamian – C12 Secretary

Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## 1. Welcome by the President-Designate

The President-Designate Silvina Ponce Dawson welcomes the participants and begins the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Kennedy Reed, former IUPAP President.

Kennedy Reed was a significant figure in the field of physics, his contributions included strong support for international collaborations and projects, particularly in establishing light sources across various regions.

The moment of silence was a tribute to honor his legacy and impact on the scientific community.

## 2. Introduction of the Participants

Led by the President Michel Spiro, participants introduced themselves, including those joining remotely.

## 3. Approval and adoption of the Agenda

Michel presents the agenda on indico for today's meeting as well as the agenda for the next days, receiving the approval of the participants.

## 4. Report on the Singapore Office

The Singapore office is approaching closure, with plans to finalize by the end of the year. Most funds have been successfully transferred to the Swiss bank, leaving only a small amount to cover potential closure fees. There is uncertainty regarding the need for audited accounts for 2022, which may be combined with the Swiss account audit.

## 5. Report on the Trieste Office

Stefano Fantoni, Secretary General for Administrative Affairs, shares a presentation of the Sistema Trieste, see attachment to the agenda. He summarizes the main activity of the Trieste office conducted by F.I.T. and introduces people who work in the IUPAP Trieste Office (Gabriella Marra, IUPAP Secretary, for all administrative matters - [secretariat@iupap.org](mailto:secretariat@iupap.org), Francesca Zavino part-time employee for websites updates, social media management and newsletter [communication@iupap.org](mailto:communication@iupap.org) and Ariella Kranjec – F.I.T. secretary).

## 6. Report on the Association in Geneva

Jens Vigen, secretary general for Legal and Financial Affairs explains that the IUPAP headquarters is officially registered as an association under Swiss law. This registration provides tax exemption for a period of five years, starting from 2021.

The association's status is crucial for IUPAP's operations and international collaborations.

## 7. Minutes of the previous EC&CC meeting, "to do list" and matters arising

The minutes of the previous EC&CC are approved.

Michel shares the screen with the to do list and goes through its points updating the presents on the new status of actions. Progress made on many items, some still ongoing.

Repository for IUPAP documents is still an issue.

The budget line, equity, diversity and inclusion shall be better defined.

## 6. Confirmation of decisions made electronically after the GA

Michel reads the two statements approved by the Executive Council:

- Statement on ban on women from higher education in Afghanistan  
The decree by the Afghanistan authorities in December 2022 suspending higher education for women in Afghanistan is deeply concerning and is yet another erosion of the rights of women in Afghanistan. This is in stark contrast to the aims of the current International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, where across the world scientists are striving to ensure that science is available (to) and of benefit to everyone. This equally applies to education.  
IUPAP condemns the suspension of Afghan women rights to education and stands in strong support of the International Science Council statement urging a reversal of the ban. Throughout its 100 year history, IUPAP has spoken out not only against injustices and human rights violations of physicists and scientists, but has consistently sought to support the oppressed communities across the world. IUPAP continues to embrace and promote scientific collaboration across the world as a driver for peace.

- IUPAP statement on unrest and violence against women in Iran

The current unrest and violence against women in Iran is highly concerning, sparked by the horrific treatment and subsequent death of Mahsa Amini while in custody. Along with the United Nations and European Parliament, and with our scientific colleagues in the EPS, and the 2,626 signatories from the STEM community of the Statement of solidarity with women in Iran, IUPAP condemns the human rights violations taking place in Iran.

Michel remarks that it is important to have the in person attendance of Nilofaar Jokar coming from Iran, IAPS Vice-President.

## 7. Membership issues

Nithaya Chetty, Vice President at Large with responsibility for Members, gives an update on membership issues.

- 1) It is important to adhere to IUPAP regulations more stringently, so defaulting members will be given notice to make arrangements to meet their obligations, or else they will be formally excluded at the General Assembly of 2024. There are ongoing conversations with many different countries.
- 2) Focus on the Pacific island nations (Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and others). These nations will be particularly affected by global problems and there is the need of a stronger basis for scientific development, with physics being a lead discipline. IUPAP needs to lead in the development of science in that part of the world acknowledging a good number of individuals and organizations led by the colleagues in new Zealand. National University of Samoa is going to be a region coordinating node.
- 3) Associate Territorial Members. See next point.
- 4) Nithaya proposes the establishment of a membership committee that could meet on a quarterly basis.
- 5) Africa. Need to review the way to grow physics on the African continent.

Most countries in Africa do not have a physical society. The hypothesis of a regional physics cooperatives of heads of physics departments has been illustrated. Nithaya talked about a program to involve and engage countries from South Africa and another one from east Africa. See the presentation on the Indico agenda for more details.

The regional physics society could be a sort of first step to become later an Associate Territorial Member, after the appropriate evaluations.

## 8. New membership class (requires change of IUPAP articles): Associate Territorial Members

Associate territorial members is a new category introduced during the EC&CC and GA 2022. This category is established to facilitate a first step towards full territorial membership. They

pay 10% of membership and have no voting rights but can take part to the work of Commissions through individuals as associated members.

Associate Territorial Members must commit to grow its physics activities and community. IUPAP will monitor this progress over a three-year period, renewable for however long it takes to bring the territory to a level where it can realistically join IUPAP as a regular Territory Member.

Jens shows the required changes of IUPAP articles to introduce the new 'Associate territorial member' category in the statute.

The discussion on wording took place to arrive at the version to be proposed to the GA. Jens will come back with a rephrasing of the resolution next day.

In principle, any country, low income country, is free to make an application to be considered as an associate territorial member. Not more than 10% members of the union will be ATM's and it will be decided on a case by case basis.

The structure of an MoU will be shared during the GA 2024.

## 9. Candidates to become Associated Territorial Members (ATM)

Nepal is the first country to be admitted as an associate territorial member, after the approval of the changes in articles.

In a short period of time, the Nepalese Physical society arranged an international conference on physics and sustainable energy (22-23 september 2022). It has been a great success with almost 90 participants and 29% of them were women.

The admission of Nepal as ATM will be contingent to the ratification of the changes in articles by the GA.

## 10. and 11. Conferences proposed for endorsement and for sponsorship

Associate General Secretary Rudzani Nmutudi shares his presentation explaining the rules and the guidelines of the conference applications. He explains that IUPAP has 4 categories of conferences (type A, B, C and D) which receive different types of support.

Rudzani goes through the selection criteria and reminds that the deadline for online submission of application is the 1st of June of the year preceding the date of the proposed conference. The organizers must send the application form, through the website and after the conference the report form online. The report is important to understand if the conferences that IUPAP supports are complying with IUPAP rules or not. It is suggested that the reports are submitted within two months from the end of the conference.

A discussion on the need to remove the limit of the registration fee emerged. A resolution on conference registration fees for developing countries must be prepared.

Rudzani shares the list of 2024 conference applications received.

Michel thanks the participants and closes the meeting.

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## 1. Review of Day 1

Michel does a review of day 1 for the points that deserve attention.

The resolution that rules the registration fee for conferences has been showed and agreed. This will be brought to the GA for the approval.

## 2. Commission matters

- The discussion emphasizes the importance of appointing associate members from both individual and corporate members to enhance commission diversity. C8 asked the approval for Park Systems to be an associate member of C8.
- There is a need for better communication between commission chairs and liaison committees to ensure balanced nominations and representation.
- Commissions should meet virtually several times a year and once in person during their three year term.
- Corporate associate members can nominate individuals for commissions but do not have voting rights, which raises questions about their influence and representation.
- Idea emerged: if commission members have people from industry that they are regularly communicating with, it is a very interesting idea of getting them as corporate associate members and then having them associated members on the commissions.
- Appointment of Associate Members of Commissions:
  - C8: Ryan YK Yoo (Korea)
  - C9: Masahiro Yamaguchi (Japan), Clarina Reloj Dela Cruz (USA)—both already approved at the GA in 2022
  - C11: Anna Machado (Brazil) and Liangjian Wen (China)
  - C13: Anisa Qamar (Pakistan)
- Commission reports: list of reports is accessible in the agenda.
- Special requests:
  - 1) C13
    - Renaming of commission medal. New name: IUPAP Kennedy Reed Medal for Outstanding Contributions to the Enhancement of Physics in Developing Countries
    - Proposed resolution for the consideration of the GA is available through the Indico agenda.
    - Proposal that IUPAP provides additional 24K Euros to LAAAMP to fund the 6 additional FAST Teams. Decision: to start increasing the contribution from 5k to 10K, add a special budget line for projects and place a call for various projects.

2) C14

- Proposed motion: IUPAP encourages its members to regularly organize short workshops to introduce (especially new) physics professors to active learning teaching methodologies. Such workshops could be held during, or accompanying, annual national meetings or at different times, according to the characteristics and possibilities of the local situation. Approved.

→ suggestion: The IUPAP website page has a slot which is physics education and needs to be fed with useful material.

### 3) Early career Scientist Prize (ECSP) Interdisciplinary 2022-2023.

Silvina presents the prize, the process followed to select the candidates and the names of the winners that will be announced during the GA.

### 4) Nominations for the next commission chairs who will officially take office following the 2024 GA. Nominations, in the same spirit, for next Officers and EC VP at Large to follow.

Michel leads a discussion regarding the possible names on the future Commission Chairs to be elected during the GA 2024 except from the C1. The discussion focused on the reminder of the balance between gender and territories. The same discussion took place for the EC members to follow. The figure of the Vice President at large for projects has been introduced.

### 5) Nominations of members of commissions.

Silvina shows a new procedure that will help in facilitating the selection process of Commission Members to be elected during the GA 2024. Details are attached through links in the Indico agenda.

There is the need to think about how to liaise with corporate associate members in this process.

### 6) Restructuring IUPAP.

Silvina presents the project of revisiting the functioning of IUPAP through a self-assessment and an external evaluation from a selected committee. The main points will be:

- Reviewing IUPAP organization and structures
- Discussing overlaps between commissions and potential new commissions
- Considering ways to improve inter-commission collaboration.

## 3. Working Groups

Working groups reports and presentations are available in Indico.

Main discussions have been:

- Updates from Working Group on Ethics
- Discussion on Working Group 19 on Science and Technology
- Presentation on Working Group 20 on Open Science.

- Working group 21
  - o Presented mandate and membership of the working group
  - o Discussing plans for major conference in 2025-26
  - o Proposal to change name from 'Physics and the Green Economy' to 'Physics for Climate Change, Action and Sustainable Development'
- Presentation on Working Group 16 on Physics and Industry
  - o Discussed efforts to acquire new corporate associate members
  - o Debated whether to turn Working Group 16 into a commission
  - o Explored ways to provide value to corporate associate members

Michel thanks the participants and closes the meeting.

Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## 1. Review of Day 2

Michel does a review of day 2 for the points that deserve attention.

- Pietro Ubertini, Chair of C19, introduces the idea of an Inter-commission Symposium to be held during the GA 2024 in China. The assignation of a 10k support from IUPAP has been approved. This will address crucial topics such as climate change and the use of AI for research. WG21 will be involved in the organization.

## 2. Financial matters

Boris Sharkov, Treasurer, and Jens Vigen, Secretary General for Legal and Financial Affairs, held the discussion covering the following points:

- Presentation of financial audited reports for 2021 and 2022 (Bruce Mc Kellar).
- Discussion on budget forecasts for 2023 (acknowledged) and 2024 (approved) and the following changes:
  - Proposal to change IUPAP's official currency from Euros to Swiss francs. Approved for the submission to the GA.
  - Proposal to set dues to 2500 CHF for 2024. Approved for the submission to the GA.

Additional points and suggestions arisen from the discussion: a) suggestion to increase conference support, particularly for Type A conferences; b) there has been a debate on running deficits vs. balancing the budget pointing at deficit 0 starting from 2025 for current activities; c) suggestion to find a secure way to invest the 2mln assets.

The EC&CC approved the documents (all available in Indico) to be submitted to the GA.

## 3. Review IUPAP functioning

Silvina is coordinating the activities related to the IUPAP restructuring that aims to assess



current structures and activities to better achieve extensive goals of IUPAP.

A self-assessment and an external evaluation will be conducted. For this second part an external evaluation committee will be established to focus on strategic questions regarding IUPAP's visibility, structure and effectiveness to collect ideas from an external point of view. Recommendations emerged include enhancing communication efforts and promoting IUPAP at sponsored conferences to increase engagement and awareness.

More details can be found in the material available on Indico.

#### 4. 18 months with sanctions in science: review of IUPAP policy.

Michel reviews IUPAP's policy on sanctions in science through the following main points:

- IUPAP has a longstanding position that no scientist should be barred from participating in conferences based on nationality or affiliation.
- supports the free circulation of scientists and aims to overcome sanctions against colleagues from countries like Russia and Belarus.
- encourages adherence to its principles to foster international cooperation. The offer of IUPAP affiliation to scientists from sanctioned countries for participation in events seems to be successful and there is the intention to extend it to publications.

So the decision is that IUPAP encourages the use of its affiliation for submitting publications, particularly for those facing restrictions due to geopolitical tensions.

#### 5. Communications

Deputy General Secretary for Administrative Affairs Sandro Scandolo shares his presentation of IUPAP communication (available on Indico).

He gave an update on IUPAP's communication efforts, including newsletter (that now counts 900 contacts and is sent every three months and published on the website) and social media presence (Facebook and LinkedIn), managed by Francesca Zavino, a FIT part time employee. She can be reached at [communication@iupap.org](mailto:communication@iupap.org).

A discussion on improving visibility of IUPAP at conferences took place. IUPAP aims to increase its visibility at conferences through strategic partnerships and presentations.

Proposals include offering standard promotional powerpoint materials and encouraging conference organizers to highlight IUPAP's involvement also through social media.

Sandro reminds that Commission Chairs have the responsibility to make sure that the content related to each commission on the website is updated and send any update to Francesca Zavino at [communication@iupap.org](mailto:communication@iupap.org).

#### 6. Activity report, Revised Strategic and Action Plan

Silvina invites to consult the updated documents attached to the Indico agenda.

#### 7. Report from the Gender Champion

Gillian Butcher, Gender Champion, presents the report on gender covering many points:

- a significant increase in female participation at conferences over time;
- data showing that fewer conferences are reporting less than 10% female participation among invited speakers and organizing committees;
- best practices from various conferences, such as networking events for women and safe spaces for discussions, are being shared to further enhance gender equality in scientific

gatherings.

## 8. IUPAP Centenary

Monica Pepe-Altarelli, Vice President at large, Centenary gives a presentation to illustrate the Centenary Celebrations held in Trieste in 2022 and the associated media coverage. The centenary celebrations included various flagship events that gathered significant media attention. A total of 130 press releases were issued, highlighting the historical significance of the centenary. Media coverage featured interviews and articles in prominent publications. Full presentation posted on Indico.

## 9. From the International Year for Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022 - 2023 (IYBSSD) to the International Decade of (all) Sciences (and all knowledge including traditional) for Sustainable Development 2024 - 2033 (IDSSD)

Michel gave a presentation to show the importance of the initiatives of the IYBSSD and invited all to the Closing Ceremony that would have take place in Geneva in December 2023. Following the IYBSSD, the International Decade of (all) Sciences (and all knowledge including traditional) for Sustainable Development 2024 - 2033 (IDSSD) has been introduced. The importance and the organizational role of IUPAP in this activity has been showed. The full presentation is available on Indico.

## 10. Comments from observers and any other business.

Comments to the new proposed ISC statutes: Michel explains and reads the content of the letter that has been signed by many unions and it has been approved.

## 11. Review of day 3 and future procedures

Michel makes a review of the agenda covered during this day 3. The texts for all resolutions to be submitted to the GA have been approved.

## 12. Close of EC&CC meeting

Michel thanks all participants and closes the meeting.

Li Lu from Chinese Physical Society introduces the location of the GA 2024 that will be held in Haikou, China in October 2024 and hosted by Chinese Physical Society.

