

Minutes of the IUVSTA Education Committee
ECM 99
Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, USA
Saturday, 29 April 2006

1. The chairman of the education committee, Laszlo Kover, opened the meeting at 14.00.
2. Members present: Laszlo Kover (chair), David Sykes (secretary), Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner, Joe Greene, Ugo Valbusa, M-G Barthes, M. Jenko, Vladimir Matolin, Fabio Mazzolini, Pedro Nascente, Ron Reid, Janez Setina, Maria-Carmen Asensio, Kwang Hwa Chung and Robert Redhammer. Observers present were: Marek Szymonski, John Grant, Masatoshi Ono, Zhen Chao Dong, Bill Rogers, Mariano Anderle, Hongjun Gao and Yong Hyeon Shin.
3. The agenda, which had been circulated previously, was adopted.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting (October 1., 2005 Gumpoldskirchen) were approved.
5. **Short Courses:** At Laszlo Kover's invitation, John Grant suggested that the IVC Organising Committees should consider working with the Education Committee to put on Short Courses at the IVCs thus ensuring some continuity. Ron Reid agreed that this was a good idea in principle that the Education Committee had input into the short course programmes but, in reality it could be difficult as the courses were often organised locally and there could be potential financial problems for the Union if the Education Committee took over control of these events. Bill Rogers asked whether or not the Education Committee was willing to take on this responsibility as it was a big undertaking. The opinion of the Committee was that while not bearing any liability for such events, the Education Committee could suggest a framework ("template"), topics and persons to run the courses.

Laszlo Kover remarked that, at the last meeting, early registration for short course attendance had been discussed. He invited comments but none were forthcoming.

6. Technical Training Course Programme: Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner presented a report on the Technical Training Course Programme, Appendix 1.

From the initial budget of 15kSF, two courses had been approved leaving 7.5kSF available to fund another two courses. A call for applications had been made to selected societies and only a post-deadline response had been received from China (this application will be discussed in the next meeting of the Committee). There had been requests from both the Polish and Hungarian Vacuum Societies to postpone the TTC already agreed; the proposals to postpone the courses were accepted.

It was noted that the Pakistan Vacuum Society had also proposed the postponement of the troubled TTC1. Laszlo Kover reported that he had written asking for details of the course which was now planned for September 2006 but had not received a reply. He proposed that if the Pakistan Vacuum Society had not used the financial support appropriately by the time of ECM100, then a request to return the funds would be issued. No one spoke against this proposal.

Marek Szymonski asked the committee to consider sponsorship and supervision of continuing TTCs which had been initiated with IUVSTA funding but were now able to continue without IUVSTA financial support. MG Barthes commented that it was quite acceptable for TTC to have IUVSTA sponsorship without financial support.

7. **Education Web Site:** Laszlo Kover invited Joe Greene to present a report on the Education Web Site. It was reported that there was much information on the web site and the content was summarised; what is there is mostly links to other useful sites and a request was made for links to other useful data bases to be communicated to the Chairman of the committee or the Educational Web Site Coordinator. Laszlo Kover commented that links to the Visual Aids programme was difficult to find on the site and he suggested having better links to the Visual Aids Modules. Ron Reid commented that the more urgent need was to improve the visual aids modules before creating links to them as the existing modules were no longer fit for purpose. Laszlo Kover commented that he expected this situation to improve shortly and otherwise the Module presently offered for sale should have a better accessibility.

8. **Visual Aids Programme:** Laszlo Kover presented a short report from John Robins, the Visual Aids Programme Coordinator. Some progress had been made on Modules 1, 2 and 4; the status on the other modules had not changed. The referees' reports on modules 1 and 2 had been passed to the authors and minor changes were being made; the referee's report on module 4 had been received but not passed to the author. Guidelines for authors and referees had been produced by John Robins and circulated for comment.

An extended discussion on the purpose of the Visual Aids Modules and on the level of their quality (which should be guaranteed when selling them) ensued. Ron Reid observed that there was a fundamental problem over the purpose of the material. Initially the material was in the form of overheads that were intended to be sold to those who did not have the facilities to produce such material, however, things have changed and to charge a sum of \$100 for copies of overheads is not acceptable. The Chairman commented that now one had to provide material capable of being run on a wide range of computers but that the material that had been produced should not be lost. He proposed only charging a modest amount or even providing the material at no charge. Ron Reid questioned the purpose of the modules as some that he had looked at required an expert to present them. Joe Greene expressed agreement with Ron Reid and said that he believed the material should be targeted at under-developed countries and technical and vocational schools in developed countries. He recognised that limited manpower was available and suggested that experts could contribute material to a module coordinator but agreed that a clear focus was needed. Ron Reid suggested that material produced on a best efforts basis could be made freely available, but, if a charge was to be made, then the material had to be of high quality. The Chairman asked what was to be done with existing material. MG Barthes suggested that if the material was of good quality but not good enough to sell, then it should be put on the web site as a technical resource. Maria-Carmen Asensio agreed that much work was required to improve on what was available and suggested the committee identify new subjects and markets and then find volunteers willing to take on the task of preparing new modules.

Joe Greene urged the meeting to resolve to do something and to do it swiftly otherwise the same comments are repeated over and over and nothing is achieved. It was agreed that unless there was some action it would be better to abandon the exercise; there was a feeling amongst the authors that, because things moved so slowly, no one was interested in the work they had produced. It was proposed and accepted that a small sub-committee be established to develop a plan to move things forward rapidly. The sub-committee will be Joe Greene, Ron Reid, Bill Rogers, M G Barthes and Maria-Carmen Asensio. The sub-committee is expected to prepare a report within a short time, latest by the next meeting of the Education Committee.

9. **Building New Contacts:** Maria-Carmen Asensio reported on the activity of her subcommittee; she was concentrating on Latin American countries such as Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Peru and Argentina. Letters had been sent to contacts in those countries and requests for further information had been received. She reported that she was working with the organisers of the 13th International Conference on Solid Films and Surfaces to be held in Argentina (Bariloche) in November 2006. Hongjun Gao was concentrating on Asia and had been trying to develop links with scientist in

Singapore. Monika Jenko reported that she had had discussions with colleagues in Serbia and there will be a workshop in Slovenia in which she hoped the Serbian Vacuum Society would participate. Laszlo Kover said that he had been trying to establish links in the Baltic countries through a Lithuanian expert in Italy, but without success so far, therefore he was asking members in Scandinavian countries for help.

10. Support of Activities in Member Societies: Laszlo Kover asked Masatoshi Ono to report on activity in Japan. It was reported that two summer schools were held each year, one by the Japanese Vacuum Society and one by the Japanese Vacuum Industry Association. In October there will be a qualification test for vacuum engineers. .

11. Any Other Business: Laszlo Kover asked Maria-Carmen Asensio to talk about the School No 7 which was due to be held in Salamanca at the end of June; she reported that all was going well and that more information could be seen on the IUVSTA web site. Laszlo Kover then asked about School No8 which had been approved provisionally at ECM 98; this school was to be held in Pakistan and John Weaver was involved in its organisation. The current status of the School was unclear and it was possible that the request for funding may be withdrawn.

12. Close: Laszlo Kover closed the meeting at 15.40.

Appendix 1**IUVSTA EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ACTIVITY REPORT ON IUVSTA TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES (ITTC)****October 2005 - April 2006***1. State at April 21st, 2006*

At the IUVSTA General Meeting held in Venice, June 30, 2004, it was decided that in the 2004 - 2007 triennium a sum of 15.000 CHF is the budget for IUVSTA Technical Training Courses (ITTC). Until ECM-98 two ITTC's were granted which left a Budget for two additional ITTC'S. In the time between ECM-98 and ECM-99 three calls for applications for ITTC's were distributed to the following National Vacuum Societies:

Brazil
Croatia
Czech Republic
Hungary
India
Mexico
Pakistan
Poland
P.R. China
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Ukraine

This list was established using the criterion that the Gross National Product per Capita (GNPpC) of the respective country was below the average value of the GNPpC of all IUVSTA members.

The calls for Application were issued at

Nov. 16th, 2005

Feb. 22nd, 2006

March. 30th, 2006

So far no applications have been received.

2. Requests for postponements:

2. 1. Request for postponement by the Pakistan Vacuum Society (PVS):

The PVS has required a postponement of an ITTC planned for April 2006 in Islamabad to Sept. 5-9, 2006 in Islamabad due to " ... massive public strikes [in relation to] the publications of insulting cartoons in newspapers/magazines in Denmark as well as in the western countries. Rioting, looting and damages to public properties are daily routines. " (Quote Dr. Javaid Bhatti, PVS).

The present TTC has a long history, with its beginning in the previous triennium. The problem was that the allocated money wasn't spent properly (giving it to professors instead of students as promised earlier). Therefore the decision of the ECM was to the PVS to spend the grant in a proper way organizing another Course or to pay the amount back to IUVSTA.

This 2nd TTC was first planned in Oct. 2005, then rescheduled to Apr. 2006 and now to Sept. 2006. Funds allocated for this TTC have been already distributed to approx. 30 students/technicians according to Dr. Bhatti. Up till now no details about the postponed TTC have been received by the Ed Comm. The further treatment of this TTC by IUVSTA, especially in regard to allocated funds should therefore seriously be discussed.

2. 2. Request for postponement by the Polish Vacuum Society:

The Polish Vacuum Society has requested a postponement of their ITTC from March 2006 to June 1 - 3 2006. Given the fact of a high number of registrations and a smooth development the TTC this request is proposed to be accepted by the Ed. Comm.

2. 3. Request for postponement by the Hungarian Vacuum Society:

The Hungarian Vacuum Society has requested a postponement of their ITTC from June 26 - 30 2006 to Oct. 9 - 13 2006. The process of money transfer from IUVSTA will be initiated by the Hungarian Vacuum Society only after the reception of a sufficient number of registrations, so this request is proposed to be accepted by the Ed. Comm.

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