

*To the members of the IOC
of the ECTP*

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the yearly issue of the ECTP Newsletter, the instrument that attempts to keep us in contact and informed in between IOC meetings.

In relation to some recent facts, I would like to cover in this editorial a couple of topics that, in my opinion, need some attention from all of us: (i) how to reach decisions outside the IOC meetings and (ii) a proposal to consider bids for future events.

The decision making process. Since we are an informal group with no written statutes or rules, most of our decisions are generally based on consensus, resulting to voting only when there are issues that can be easily formulated with yes/no decisions and similar cases. This has also been the historical approach, when the IOC was a smaller group and ECTPs were held at two-year intervals. However the situation has changed from earlier times. Now ECTPs are held every three years and in a three-year interval it is often necessary to assume positions and/or to reply to outside questions in the name of the ECTP, sometimes without the necessary time to poll the entire IOC regarding individual views on a specific topic. In recent times I have always tried to keep informed the past and present Chairmen of the issue and to formulate an answer based on a consensus among the three of us. Occasionally I have asked the opinion of senior ECTP members to seek their views on specific topics, enquiring if there were precedents in the matter. All of these solutions are possible and valid, but remain based on subjective decisions. I do not have a clear and specific proposal to solve the problem, but just wanted to make all of you aware of it. Any suggestion or proposed solution you might have on the matter is welcome.

Bids for future ECTPs? The historical situation regarding decisions about where to organize future ECTPs is the following: generally the current Chairman made private

enquiries and/or received private expressions of interest from potential hosts. A brief presentation might follow during the ECTP meeting and the decision was quickly made in that occasion, with a public announcement made at the conclusion of the current ECTP. I suggest that we consider a variant of such a scheme, to give some more time both to possible hosts in preparing their bid and to IOC members in evaluating any proposal. The proposal goes in the generic direction of being very open and clear about the way we proceed in these matters. We might set up a page in the website of the current ECTP, where we give specific deadlines and instructions for the formulation of proposals. Private expressions of interest might be formulated to the current Chairman by a certain well identified date and evaluated by a small group (nominated by the Chairman). The expression(s) of interest should be followed by a formal written bid to organize the next ECTP, to be circulated to all the IOC members at least two-three months before the IOC meeting. These months could be used for comments, suggestions, improvements and for an individual evaluation by each IOC member. If necessary, a quick vote can be taken during the IOC meeting to reach a final decision in case of competing bids. As usual, it is expected that the winning bidder makes a short presentation during the closing ceremony, inviting people to attend the future ECTP.

Comments and suggestions on the above topics and on any other item reported in the Newsletter are welcome.

Francesco Righini

TOWARD ECTP 2008

The 18th European Conference on Thermophysical Properties (ECTP) is scheduled to take place at the University of Pau (France) on August 31 – September 4, 2008. The organizers will be the University of Pau, with the help of people from university of Bordeaux (France), Constantine the Philosopher University of Nitra (Slovakia) and

the Institute of Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences (Bratislava, Slovakia).

The objective of the conference is to provide a forum for academic and industrial researchers to meet and exchange valuable experiences in the field of thermophysical properties of a wide variety of systems covering fluids and solids. The conference concentrates mainly on measurement, theory and modeling of the following properties and materials.

Properties: thermal conductivity, diffusivity, electrical conductivity, viscosity and non-Newtonian properties, mass-diffusion and thermo-diffusion, optical and radiative properties including emissivity, reflectivity and absorptivity, solubility, phase equilibrium including liquid - solid, calorimetric and volumetric properties, speed of sound, interfacial properties including solid-solid and wettability, ...

Materials: metals and alloys, ceramics, glasses, composites, multi-functional materials, superconductor, insulation materials, porous materials, granular and thin-film materials, foams, gels, emulsions, soft materials, nano-materials, near critical and super critical fluids, polymers, food and biomaterials, environmentally friendly fluids, aqueous systems, petroleum fluids, ionic liquids, molten salts, ...

Special focus on: measuring techniques (including methodology of data evaluation and prediction) and engineering applications (polymerization, casting, sintering, plasma spraying, distillation, refrigerant techniques, thermoelectric cooling, insulation structures in civil engineering, ...), standard data and standard substances.

The conference will include invited lectures, oral presentations, poster sessions and workshops on specialized topics. The ECTP Award for lifetime achievements and the ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award will be presented during the event. An exhibition of scientific equipment will also be held during the conference.

The event will be held at the beginning of September when the academic year has not yet started. Pau is located in the south-west part of France, 80 km inland, by the Pyrénées

mountains, the natural border with Spain. Pau, the capital of the Béarn, is the most elegant of the towns and cities that overlook the Pyrénées from their vantage point on the high bluffs that run parallel with the mountains.

The city of Pau lies on the A64 highway and on the main French east-west rail route, with connections to Bayonne and Biarritz (100 km) and Spain (150 km) to the west, [Lourdes](#) (40 km) and [Toulouse](#) (200 km) to the east, as well as to [Bordeaux](#) (200 km) and [Paris](#) (800 km) to the north. It is easily reachable by public transport. There are 9 daily Air France flights from Paris, 3 daily Air France flights from Lyon, 1 daily flight from London-Stansted with Ryan Air (UK) and from Amsterdam-Schiphol with Transavia (NL). There are also three daily TGV (high-speed) trains from Paris (5 hours) Accommodation of various levels can be arranged from reasonably priced hostels up to 4 stars hotels. A list of the hotels available in the city will be posted on the web site of the conference:

<http://ectp.univ-pau.fr>

We look forward to meet again all of you in Pau in September 2008.

J. L. Daridon, L. Kubicar, L. Vozar

INFORMATION

This section contains items of potential interest to all the IOC members and to the thermophysics community in general:

Proceedings of 17th ECTP.

Several Special Issues devoted to papers presented at the 17th European Conference on Thermophysical Properties have been published recently.

International Journal of Thermophysics: Volume 27, number 4 (July 2006) and Volume 27, number 6 (November 2006).

Fluid Phase Equilibria: Volume 245, issue 1 (July 2006).

High Temperatures High Pressures: two papers were published in Volume 35-36, issue 5 (2003-2006). Other papers are expected in future issues.

CD-ROM of 17th ECTP Proceedings.

Permission was granted by the International Journal of Thermophysics to reproduce the published articles in a CD to be sent to the registered participants.

Further contacts are taking place with Fluid Phase Equilibria and with High Temperatures High Pressures regarding this matter.

High Temperatures High Pressures.

Discussions are under progress between a North American publisher and Pion, the current publisher of HTHP, regarding the sale of the journal. It is expected that a positive conclusion will be reached shortly.

Jean-François Sacadura (JFS) has worked for some time on the re-launch project of the journal. The editorial policy will be based on two Chief Editors coordinating a group of regional editors and an editorial board. JFS has done extensive consultations aiming to assess the status of the journal and to verify the availability of active participants in the new editorial team. The results of these contacts have been very encouraging.

It is envisaged that the new HTHP will run with internet based submission and reviewing procedures, in order to significantly increase the dynamics of the journal.

The goal is to restart the issuing at the beginning of 2008 with contributions arising from presentations at the ATPC 2007, followed by papers from the ECTP 2008. The conference chairmen are being contacted on the matter.

IOC News

New IOC member. Professor Jean-Christophe Batsale, University of Bordeaux, France has joined the IOC. His name was proposed by Jean-François Sacadura and endorsed by the Société Française de Thermique (SFT)

Presentation at the ATPC. Jean-Luc Daridon, the current IOC Chairman, has been invited to give a plenary lecture at the Asian Thermophysical Properties Conference (Fukuoka, Japan, August 2007). His talk will

be in relation to with the prediction of thermophysical properties of fluids under pressure. In that occasion he will also make a presentation about the 18th Conference on Thermophysical Properties (Pau, France, September 2008), inviting Asian colleagues to contribute and to participate to the next ECTP.

Comments. Comments and suggestions regarding all the items of the Newsletter are welcome. Please send all the material via email to f.righini@inrim.it