Minutes of the ICOHTEC General Assembly
37th ICOHTEC Symposium in Tampere, Finland, 13 August 2009 at 15:30-18:12
Location: Werstas Auditorium, Former premises of Finlayson Cotton Mill
Present: 30 attendants
Minutes by Timo Myllyntaus

Opening Words by the President

The General Assembly was opened by President James Williams, who was pleased that the 37th ICOHTEC Symposium took place in conjunction with the joint conference of ICOHTEC, TICCIH and WorkLab and regarded Tampere, a traditional Finnish industrial city, as an excellent site for the conference focusing on “Reusing the Industrial Past”. He expressed his sincere thanks to the partner organisations for their very good co-operation and relaxed atmosphere. He was assured that Kimmo Antila of Tampere Museums and the Museum Center Vapriikki deserve enormous credit for organizing a flawless meeting in association with the Finnish Museum of Labour, the Finnish Society for the History of Technology, TICCIH-Finland, the City of Tampere and a number of other local sponsors.

Elections

The General Assembly (GA) dealt with six elections, the first being the election of the highest decision making body between two successive GAs. In accordance with the stepwise rotation system for the Executive Committee’s posts, the GA was to elect three persons. The Executive Committee had proposed in its meeting (ECM) to elect Kimmo Antila (Finland), Yoel Bergman (Israel), and Susan Horning (USA) for four-year posts. As the GA decided to accept this proposal, the Executive Committee for 2010 – 2011 is composed of the following twelve elected members plus the former president Hans-Joachim Braun:
Consequently, the GA confirmed that until the ICHST in Manchester in 2013 the EC consists of 12 elected members and the former president. In addition, the members of the Board, i.e. ICOHTEC’s officers, hold also voting rights and the obligation to attend the EC meetings.

Since 2008 ICOHTEC has announced the Publication Prize (3,000 €) for Young Scholars (under 38 years old), which has been generously sponsored by the Juanelo Turriano Foundacion (JTF). This year the Book Prize Committee was chaired by Thomas Kaiserfeld, while two other members were Dick van Lente and Rebecca Herzig. Following the proposal by the ECM, the GA invited Dick van Lente to chair the Publication Prize Committee of 2011 and Thomas Zeller (D/USA) and Robert Belot (F) to serve as its members. Furthermore, if there are submissions in Russian or Spanish, the EC will nominate 1–2 additional members. The GA urged to deliver an announcement of the prize in September 2010. The call is to include the same guidelines as last year: apart from submissions in English, those in other official ICOHTEC languages (French, German, Russian or Spanish) will be accepted and all submissions should contain a summary of 4500 words (10–15 typewritten pages) in English. The deadline for submission is 24 January 2011. Further details on the prize will be available in the autumn issue of the ICOHTEC Newsletter. In the discussion it was emphasized that the call for the prize should be distributed widely and efficiently, especially through international email lists. In addition, it was wished that all members of ICOHTEC make an effort to spread information about this prize through their national channels.

The GA decided to launch a new prize, the article prize, empower the Board to nominate a separate Article Prize Committee and deliver a call for submissions by the end of September 2011 with the same deadline as the book prize has.

The GA joined in the opinion of the ECM that the Tampere Programme Committee (Finn Arne Jørgensen, chair, Lars Bluma, Jan Kunnas and Slawomir Lotysz) had succeeded very well in their task. After a brief summary on the preparations of the next symposium, the meeting elected the Programme Committee for the 2011 ICOHTEC Symposium, which will consist of Lars Bluma, chair, Jan Kunnas, Nina Möllers, Antoni Roca Roselli and Klaus Staubermann.
All six officers were elected by GA to the **Nomination Committee** for 2011, while the President, Secretary General and the Treasurer were nominated to the **Travel Grant Committee** for the next year.

**Report by the Secretary General**

The Secretary General Timo Myllyntaus described the academic year 2009 – 2010 as busy and successful for our organization. It started from our General Assembly, which was held at ICOHTEC’s 36th Symposium in conjunction of the 23rd International Congress of History of Science and Technology in Budapest on 27 July to 2 August 2009. Papers for the seven symposia of ICOHTEC at the Budapest congress were selected by our programme committee consisting of Reinhold Bauer (chair), Outi Ampuja and Finn Arne Jørgensen.

Our main efforts during the past year were focused on supporting the preparation of the joint ICOHTEC, TICCIH & WorkLab conference, which was our first meeting arranged in cooperation with other organisations. This kind of a meeting proved to need much more work than our ordinary symposia. All phases of preparation required much more detailed planning and communication. The deadline for abstract submissions was 16 November 2009 but was postponed to 7 January. In total, 325 paper or poster proposals were submitted and about 300 were accepted. It was noteworthy that more than half, approximately 170 proposals, were submitted to the subthemes, which were evaluated by ICOHTEC’s programme committee according to the division of labour between three programme committees. Finally 270 presentations in about 70 sessions were printed in the programme. 370 participants (including ones with “one-day tickets”) plus roughly 40 accompanying persons from about 40 countries attended the conference.

The contest on the best book in the history of technology for authors under 38-year old scholars, *The ICOHTEC Prize for Young Scholars*, was launched in September 2009. By the deadline nine applications from nine universities of seven countries were submitted. The winner was to be awarded in the banquet on Saturday 14 August 2010.

During the past academic year our Travel Grant Committee succeeded in awarding travel grants to ten researchers from countries, which were not able to support their young scholars sufficiently. In total we received eleven applications and finally handed grants to eight of ten grantees, because two of them cancelled their participation in the Tampere conference. All this was possible because we received donations from two institutions: Fundacion Juanelo Turriano (Madrid) and Division of the History of Science and Technology (DHST, Paris).

These grants have been awarded according to our earlier principles: It is possible to receive travel grants only for three successive years and the total number of grants per person in any ten year period is four. Our travel grants are generally awarded to young applicants from countries with weak currencies and low income levels. During several years, the standard sum of a travel grant has been 300 euro but smaller sums are also possible. Our intention has not been to cover all travel, accommodation and registration expenses of a participant, because we expect that a successful applicant is able to receive funds also from other sources. Grants have been awarded to persons whom our programme committee has selected to deliver a paper or present a poster in the current symposium.
During the year we have updated our website and we have worked out a test version on the new design of our website, which will be completed and introduced to your members by January 2011.

In the Budapest congress, we decided to double our membership by the Manchester ICHST in 2013. The target is to have 40 new members per year. Because recruiting new members is very vital to all activities of ICOHTEC, we worked throughout the past academic year in order to achieve this target. We distributed leaflets, sent emails and informed about the benefits of the memberships to students, teachers and researcher interested in the history of technology.

**Report by the Treasurer**

The treasurer Patrice Bret gave a report on accounts, which had not changed much from the past year. It was stated that the present fees for individuals are 30 euro or 40 USD and for institutional members 75 euro or 100 USD. These were supposed to remain unchanged. In addition to previous scale of the fees, the GA decided to set up a special reduced fee of 15 euro or 20 USD for graduate and post graduate students. An unfortunate thing is that dozens did not pay their dues in 2009, while a positive sign is that new members, especially from Finland, France and Italy, have joined in ICOHTEC during the Tampere conference. After hearing the report by the auditor Lars Bluma, the General Assembly decided to approve these accounts of the financial year.

Following the suggestion of the Executive Committee, the meeting decided to the change of domicile of the organisation from Bath, Britain to Paris, France, which is the home country of the present treasurer.

It was proposed that members will be allowed to pay lower registration fees for our symposia than non-members. The difference should be five euro more than the regular annual due of ICOHTEC (i.e. 30€ or 40$). It also suggested that in the registration form of further ICOHTEC symposia, a section should be provided, by which participants can pay their dues to ICOHTEC. Because this requires seamless cooperation between the treasurer and the local organising committees and effortless transfer of dues to the account of ICOHTEC, it was considered necessary to investigate this proposal more closely.

**Report by the Editor of ICON**

Editor Mark Clark reported that volume 14, the so called military technology issue, has been published. It was edited by the guest editor Barton Hacker and contains ten articles and a short introduction. Volume 15 will contain mixed papers and will be come from the press in 2011, while the following volume (16) consists of papers on everyday technology presented in our Victoria symposium. Volume 17 is to provide a selection of papers delivered in the Tampere conference. The deadline to submit article manuscripts to the editor of ICON is mid-January 2011. The forthcoming volumes of ICON will have a new blue cover design with ICOHTEC’s new logo.
Clark also informed that ICOHTEC aims to make an agreement with EBSCO on indexing electronically articles published in ICON. ICOHTEC will keep ICON’s publisher rights, and digital indexing will not compete with the complete paper version of the yearbook.

Report by the Editor of the Newsletter

Editor Stefan Poser was happy to announce that during the past academic year the Newsletter was published regularly every month. Its contents has increased and diversified. A new feature is to publish reports on various conferences, while the series of country reports and research field reports will be continued. Submissions of report manuscripts are welcome.

Report by the Webmaster

In his survey our webmaster Slawomir Lotysz told about updating of our website during the past year. He also presented the animated prototype of the design of the website and estimated that the new design will be launched this autumn.

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Finally, the president James Williams closed the meeting at 18:12.