

IOCG Agenda for the Triennium 2010-13

Coordination and promotion of regional and topical Meetings on Crystal Growth: IOCG wants to support such type of events. Europe will restart the series of the Europ. Conf. on Crystal Growth while AACG and the Asian Conference on Crystal Growth and Crystal Technology are already consolidated realities. The IOCG Executive Committee will try to promote similar meetings also in other regions, for example using all resources available in South/Central America and in Eastern Europe. Of great values are also the bilateral or trilateral meetings between neighbor nations.

In addition to “geographical” initiatives there are also “topical” initiatives which deserve IOCG support, for example the Intern. Workshop on Crystal Growth Technology (so far based in Europe), the Intern. Workshop on Computer Modeling in Crystal Growth, Intern. Conf. on Biological Crystallization, and several others. IOCG should try to coordinate, spatially, temporally and in terms of content, these meetings. Of course the final responsibility is left to the organizers, however in a period of budget cuts it is reasonable to reduce overlaps and maximize the scientific profit.

Format of ICCG and ISSCG: The school must maintain the high profile which has characterized the ISSCG so far. That means first of all that lectures have to be given by first class experts. Two changes have to be introduced: first, a more didactical approach (sometimes the lectures seem to be planned for experts and not for graduates and post-docs) and, second, the number of lecturers must be reduced in order to let them devote more time to develop their subjects. In principle, 5-6 lecturers might cover the entire school, from fundamentals to methods, for a better interaction with the students and a more logical/continuous treatment of each subject.

The format of ICCG is somewhat critical and will be always a compromise between pure CG science and materials-oriented approaches. For the future editions it is to be checked if inserting a certain number of sessions entitled “Current issues/advances in: melt growth... solution growth... in-situ characterization... defect formation/elimination...nanomaterials... microgravity... surfaces/interfaces....etc.” might be reasonable in order to stimulate more interaction and cross-fertilization between participants. It is advisable to make a moderate use of parallel sessions.

Works of Executive Committee. It is to be discussed and checked if the Executive Committee should be splitted in working groups/commissions, eventually integrated with external consultants. Of course the web site of our Organization should report on the tasks/composition/activities of such commissions. It would be also a way to effectively face the question of fragmentation and reconcile many aspects of CG under the IOCG roof.

Finances. In the past few months there was a proposal to raise a small amount (10 Euro) from each registration at ICCG for the creation of a small budget to support the activities of the association during the corresponding triennium. This “tax” will be applied for the first time at the forthcoming ICCGE-17 in Warsaw. The resulting budget should be invested for updating the website as service for our community, support to CG schools and in a Prize for the best PhD thesis on crystal growth.

Education. The objective reduction of CG activities at university level in many developed countries led to a drop of education in this scientific field. Here there is a need for

intervention from side of the Executive Committee in order to promote more schools “where the potential students are”. This is the successful approach of the IUCR Commission on Crystal Growth which indeed stimulated the organization of tens of schools in the past few years in all continents. A coordinated action between IOCG and the IUCR Commission on Crystal Growth in the educational field is absolutely necessary. In addition to individual one-week schools it is necessary to promote and support more organic initiatives such as Master courses. IOCG supports the Master in Crystallography and Crystallization initiated by J.M. Garcia-Ruiz in Spain. The Executive Committee will contact the individual national organizations to get a feedback about the status of CG education in all member countries.

Prizes. It has to be discussed if the current format of Laudise, Frank and Schieber prizes needs amendments. By the current crystal growth it becomes very difficult to distinguish between purely fundamental and technological contributions. The decision about amendments will be taken on the basis of the future nominations. Should the number of nominations for the Laudise and Frank Prizes be too small the Exec. Committee will discuss whether to unify the two prizes in a “Frank-Laudise Prize” for outstanding contributions to the crystal growth science. It is to be decided if already in 2013 the Executive Committee wants to inaugurate the Prize for the Best PhD Thesis on crystal growth.

Extend the number of national organizations. One important task of the Executive Committee is to stimulate the creation of several more CG national societies in addition to the present 22. As a consequence of political and geographical changes (e.g. breakdown of Soviet Union) and partly due to the shift of crystal growth production towards emerging countries, there many more subjects which could potentially enter into IOCG. For instance, in Europe: Bulgaria, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Greece and possibly others. In Centre and South America: Mexico, Argentina. In Asia: Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan. In all these places there are active CG groups and IOCG will solicit them to found national organizations.

Contacts to other International Organizations. It is important to co-ordinate the action of IOCG with the initiatives of IUCR-Commission on Crystal Growth. This will be done by establishing a regular exchange of information about meetings and schools. IOCG will seek new contacts with MRS and E-MRS (crystal growth is actually an important chapter of materials science) and other organizations involved in crystallization (for instance the Europ. Federation of Chemical Engineers-Working Party on Crystallization).