

International Organization for Crystal Growth

Report of the activities of the triennium 2010-13

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The President and Executive Committee were engaged in a series of initiatives as briefly outlined below:

1) Restyling and update of the IOCG website (www.iocg.org)

The web site has been completely re-designed with the professional help of Iwona Rozko from McMaster University. We tried to give all substantial information about past and current events as well as history and structure of IOCG in a coherent way. Unfortunately we do not have a statistics over visitors and visited pages, which should be implemented in the next triennium. All national crystal growth groups/organizations were informed about the new site and kindly requested to check the corresponding link to their national webpage (when existing). Unfortunately we were not successful in filling the planned "Crystal gallery" which was then removed and substituted by "Jobs". I regret to say that so far was the crystal growth community did not make any use of this type of service.

2) Promotion and coordination of regional and topical meetings

IOCG was actively involved in the organization of the meeting of the European crystal growers which took place in Berlin on 20-21 October 2010. The main outcome of the meeting was the foundation of the European Network on Crystal Growth (ENCG), presently coordinated by T. Duffar, K. Roberts and W. Miller (minutes of the meeting and other information about the network are available at <https://secure.dgkk.de/eacg/index.php?id=2>). It was also decided that the series of European Crystal Growth Conferences (ECCG) should have restarted after a pause which lasted nearly twenty years. ECCG-4, held during 17-20 June 2012 at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, was co-chaired by K. Roberts and A. Florence and collected a very good number of participants. The 5th edition of ECCG is already planned to take place in Bologna (Italy) in summer 2015.

IOCG also supported the organization of the 5th Intern. Workshop on Crystal Growth Technology, which took place in Berlin during 26-30 June 2011, and gathered about 170 participants (see <https://iwcgt5.ikz-berlin.de/index.php?id=14>). The proceedings were published in J. Crystal Growth. Also in this case a follow-up is planned for June 2014, again in Berlin.

The 7th Romanian Conf. on Crystal Growth (<http://rocam.unibuc.ro/>) and the associated summer school were held under the auspices of IOCG. Despite their names, they were indeed truly international meetings, with speakers and participants from many different countries. Talks and lectures were of very good level.

3) Contacts to other international organizations

This was one of the key issues of the agenda 2010-13 and the Executive Committee has been actively seeking new contacts. With two associations this was particularly successful: with the International Union of Crystallography we shall cooperate on two different levels in view of the Year of Crystallography 2014. First, representatives of the IUCR Commission on Crystal Growth and Characterization of Materials will co-organize four joint sessions at the forthcoming ICCG-17 in Warsaw and, second, two IOCG representatives are appointed in the IUCR committee who will establish a web site "Crystals". Hopefully, by joining the efforts, this "artistic" initiative can be completed successfully before the year of crystallography.

IOCG is officially co-organizing a session named "Crystal Growth in Materials Science" at the Spring Meeting of the European-MRS (see http://www.emrs-strasbourg.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=691&Itemid=1619). The E-MRS Spring Meetings normally collects some 2500 participants and having the IOCG signature in the conference will enormously increase our visibility. Many thanks to the IOCG colleagues who proposed and chair the four symposia of this session.

4) Support to ICCGE-17 and ISSCG-15

President and Executive Committee have been constantly in contact with the Polish organizers of ICCGE-17 and ISSCG-15, providing advices and inputs in order to set up the scientific programme, advertise the meeting and get the IUCR sponsorship.

5) Frank, Laudise and Schieber Prizes

The selection committees for the Frank, Laudise and Schieber Prizes were appointed in due time and chaired by the two IOCG Vice-presidents. There were a good number of nominations of excellent candidates. The three winners are: Prof. Katsuo Tsukamoto (Frank Prize), Prof. Chuang-tian Chen (Laudise Prize), Prof. Yuki Kimura (Schieber Prize).

6) New members

During the triennium 2010-13 we got and accepted the application of the Irish association for crystal growth to join IOCG. Consequently Prof. B. Glennon joined the Council of IOCG as Irish representative. Unfortunately the efforts to extend our presence in South America, especially in Argentina, did not turn out positive so far. There were many contacts and negotiations with Prof. Silvia Cuffini in order to nucleate a Crystal Growth Group out of the stronger Argentinean Association of Crystallography but no concrete decisions/actions were taken. A positive outcome of these contacts was however the organization of the School of Advanced Studies in Crystallization and Crystallography for Latin America <http://ecrisla2011.ufsc.br/index.php?lang=en>, held under the auspices of IOCG and chaired by S. Cuffini.

The membership extension remains certainly a good point for the Agenda 2013-16.

7) Education

In addition to the already cited support and promotion of ISSCG-15, School of Advanced Studies in Crystallization and Crystallography for Latin America, and Romanian Summer School in Brasov, IOCG also supported the different editions of the Master in Crystallography and Crystallization, organized by J.M. Garcia-Ruiz in Sevilla (Spain) during this triennium. The support included advertizing the event through the IOCG website and in soliciting potential attendees.

Key Issues for the Triennium 2013-16

- Promotion and coordination of regional and topical Meetings on Crystal Growth
Avoid overlaps and duplication of events, help to increase the quality, establish a dialog with other organization to cooperate on new promising research fields (graphene, biological crystallization, new semiconductors, etc. ...).
- Support to organization of ICCGE-18 and ISSCG-16
- Update of IOCG website and statistics of the visit/downloads
- Education. Promote international and regional schools “where the potential students are”. Support to existing permanent educational activities.
- Prizes: Advertise the Laudise, Frank and Schieber prizes and promote nominations. The Executive Committee should discuss if it is worth starting a new prize for a significant PhD thesis in the area of crystal growth
- Extend the number of national organizations: Establish contacts to crystal growth communities of countries with a traditional activity as well as to new subjects of the crystal growth research and stimulate them to join IOCG. In Europe: Bulgaria, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Greece, Turkey... Latin America: Argentina, Mexico, Cuba,... North Africa: Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt,... in Asia: Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan..
- Contacts to other International Organizations. After the positive experience made with IUCR and E-MRS in the past, IOCG should now seek new contacts with MRS, Europ. Federation of Chemical Engineers-Working Party on Crystallization.