

REPORT

IFMBE International Governmental Organizations Liaison Committee (ILC) (Period July 2000. – August 2003.)

Submitted to the IFMBE Administrative Council,
Sydney – Australia, 21 – 22 August, 2003

1) List of ILC Members

See the Attachment.

2) Liaison activities

After setting up the Committee the Chairman sent a message to the members. In this duties and responsibilities of members – in accordance with the ILC Charter Document – were described. Members received also available information on the existing relations and contacts with the respective organisations.

Committee members have been expected to represent the IFMBE based on the information and tasks given by the Administrative Council as well as on their own initiatives.

Five members of the ILC served first time in this capacity. Past experiences had shown that the considerable geographical distances created extra difficulties in maintaining contact with the organisations. Therefore, when selecting the members the intention was to find persons who are geographically close to the organisation he/she was expected to liase with. Because of the renewal of the Committee, in the initial period the incoming information and the activities was rather modest.

Suggestion: Experiences proved that members of this Committee felt rather isolated because of lack of sufficient information about the activities in the Federation and its AC. Therefore it is suggested to consider an "executive summary" type of information distributed quarterly to members of this (and other) IFMBE Committees. This could be composed from the reports of the AC and other incoming materials.

It is suggested to consider a Private Area (with passwords access) on the IFMBE web page, where regular, periodical information would be available to the members of different committees. This would be cheap solution with fast and easy access to people concerned.

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Health Organization (WHO) – Headquarters in Geneva. The first and important activity of the period of this report was the preparation of the triennial report submitted to WHO on 31 August, 2002. WHO's routine is the periodical evaluation of activities of and collaboration with the accredited NGOs. This report (13 pages!) presented information about the activities of our organisation as well as the joint activities carried out with WHO. In addition to this one have to submit the working plan prepared for the next three years period. The report was prepared jointly by Andrei Issakov, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Co-ordinator, Service Outcome, Department of Health Service Provision Evidence and Information for Policy Cluster,

WHO. His suggestions and help was very valuable. As a result of our report WHO endorsed IFMBE for the next period as collaborating partner.

Contact with WHO Headquarters was basically through Dr. Issakov. It should be mentioned that Peter Heimann (IFMBE Clinical Engineering Division) became staff member in WHO-HQ as Scientist, Department of Health Service Provision. He works in the field of Essential Health Technologies in close co-operation with Dr. Issakov. Their main concern is to develop and promote the Essential Healthcare Technology Project. WHO puts emphasis on "Quality of Care", and accreditation of healthcare facilities is highlighted in this program. This fact could also be considered as significant intellectual input from IFMBE to WHO because Peter Heimann became known to WHO through IFMBE.

In June 2002. Nandor Richter met with World Health Organization Headquarters representatives in Berlin. There was a meeting of the International Medical Device Group (informal group of organisations involved in medical device issues) and this gave opportunity to talk with WHO representatives, Andrei Issakov and Peter Heimann. Dr. Issakov stressed the importance of the co-operation with IFMBE. He still thinks that clinical engineering is the main field of our co-operation. In WHO the reorganisation period is over and Dr. Issakov is on the opinion that visiting WHO-HQ by the IFMBE delegation could be useful.

Dr. Gerald Verollet, who worked with Dr. Issakov left WHO after few years of service. For professional issues in Verollet's field one may contact Dr Steffen Groth, the newly appointed Director of BCT (groths@who.int).

World Health Organization (WHO) – European Office in Copenhagen. In September 2002. Professor Hiie Hinrikus participated at the 51. WHO Regional Meeting for Europe, in Madrid. She presented a paper which gave thorough description of IFMBE activities and information about the preparation of EAMBES.

World Health Organization (WHO) – PAHO in Washington. Dr. Gideon Kantor attended a WHO-PAM conference in Washington in 2001. After this conference he recommended to IFMBE President to consider to form a Medical Device Policy Committee. The suggestion was favourably accepted.

Apart from these channels the regular contact with WHO, both in HQ and in the Regional Offices remained wake.

United Nations - Vienna based organisations

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is still pursuing activities which are mainly linked to environmental issues. In this field the public-health related activities and the health – environment issues could be relevant. However, at this moment this is not close to IFMBE activities. Still IFMBE should maintain its accredited consultative status with the Economic and Social Council at the United Nation – Vienna. Our acceptance in this status required long and tedious work, therefore we should be careful not to loose the consultative status in this and similar UN organizations. In this spirit several visits were paid on regular basis to UNIDO officials.

In December 2001 Nandor Richter participated in the UNIDO General Conference in Vienna. The next General Conference will be between 1-5 December 2003 also in Vienna. Our

presence is desirable, because this is a good opportunity to meet people whom otherwise is rather difficult to contact.

United Nations NGO Committee on Development. Non Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the United Nations form various special committees. IFMBE is member of the Vienna based United Nations NGO Committee on Development. The IFMBE representative is Board Member of this Committee. In the period of this report several meetings were organised. These meetings, half day seminars organised by the NGO Committee deal with actual and important social problems of the developing countries. Lecturers come from government representations, universities, social agencies, medical organisations, etc. Our membership in this committee should be maintained. Personal activity was carried out in this spirit.

United Nations - Paris based organisation: UNESCO

In this reporting period IFMBE's appearance at UNESCO has somewhat improved. This is due to the fact that we have representative in Paris plus the activities of French colleagues who can pay more attention to this relation. However, no real breakthrough is being felt.

Epilogue

The Chairman of the International Governmental Organizations Liaison Committee would like to express his thanks to the Committee Members for the work carried out during their tenure. Thanks goes also to the IFMBE Secretariat for the continuous technical and managerial support without which this activity could not have been realised.

At the end of their tenure the Chairman and members of the ILC would like to thank the trust expressed and support received from the Administrative Council during this period. For the new members of this Committee we wish successful work.



Nandor Richter, Chairman
International Governmental
Organizations Liaison Committee

Attachment

List of ILC members

Name and e-mail address of the person and name of the organisation(s) to which he/she has been assigned to liaise:

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