

New Initiatives Working Group report to the IFMBE/AC

(Sydney, August 22-23, 2003)

Chairperson: Prof. Makoto Kikuchi (Japan)

Co-chair: Prof. Joe Barbenel (UK)

Members: Prof. ZiBin Yang (China)

Prof. Helmut Hutten (European Activities)

Prof. Walter Chang (Asian- Pacific Activities)

Prof. Joachim Nagel (Vice- President)

Function, scope and responsibilities

This working group shall investigate the new scientific subjects and business issues what should be necessary to foster and start up the activity and how the federation could facilitate the work on these new issues.

Activities in 2002~2003

- According to the function, scope and responsibilities, New Initiatives Working Group has carried out the searches and discussions by e-mail among the members in the case of necessity.
- The emerging scientific subjects that have been discussed at the AC meeting in Chicago were neuroengineering, and bioinformatics. "WG in neuroengineering" (Chairperson: Dr. Karen Anne Maxon) has already been launched in 2001 and started up their activities.
- New initiatives such as "WG for Telemedicine and robotic surgery", "WG for nanotechnology in medicine" have been proposed by several WG members and the experts.
- The members of this WG shall be reflected to broad range of the scientific interests and geographical balance. The WG should consider of additional members.
- The WG would like to solicit the proposals from the officers and the administrative council members for the preparation of discussing matters as the new business initiatives such as collaboration with industrial sector and BME education in the developing countries.
- With welcoming the input from not only the AC members but also Secretaries Committee members, the activities will be more co-operative and effective.
- A major non-scientific initiative in which Joe Barbenel has been involved was the foundation of a European organization of those involved in Biomedical Engineering and Science (see www.eambes.org). The new organization will be active in raising the profile of BME in Europe and encouraging and coordinating such areas of activity as research, education, training and public understanding of BME.

Makoto Kikuchi