
Minutes of the Meeting by the National Committee of IUCr, held at INSA on March 16, 2009

The members present:

- 1) Prof. P. Chakrabarti (Chairman)
 - 2) Dr. C.G. Suresh (Member)
 - 3) Prof. K. Byrappa (Member)
 - 4) Dr. S.K. Halder (Member)
 - 5) Prof. G.R. Desiraju (Member Ex-officio)
- Prof. A. Nangia (Member) and Prof. J. Dattagupta (Member Ex-officio) could not attend.

Agenda items

- 1) Report on the 21st General Assembly of IUCr, Osaka, August 23-31, 2008

The full details of the conference are available at the website, <http://www.iucr2008.jp/>. There were two plenary lectures, 36 keynote lectures and 98 microsymbiosia covering all aspects of crystallography, bridging major fields such as biology, chemistry, physics, mineralogy and earth science, ranging from academic research to industrial/medical applications. There were 33 participants from India out of a total of 2,477 participants from 66 countries. Six Indians chaired different microsymbiosia and three made oral presentations. Two students from India won IUCr2008 Poster Award under different categories: Sudarshan Mahapatra from the Indian Institute of Science (poster title: Crystal design from hydrogen bond to halogen bond and beyond), and Amit Delori from the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune (poster title: pKa directed host-guest assemblies of 2,4-diamino-6-methyl-triazine with various dicarboxylic acids).

Based on the recommendation of the National Committee of IUCr, INSA had written (on April 2, 2008) to Executive Secretary, IUCR to upgrade the adherence category of India from the present II to Category III. This was approved by the EC and the General Assembly. With this new adherence category our yearly subscription to IUCr would be CHF 6000, and this was in effect from 2008 itself. With the increase adherence category three delegates from India could attend the Congress deliberations in Osaka with voting right.

INSA had earlier supported and written in favour of hosting the IUCr Congress in 2014 in India (Hyderabad). A local organizing committee was formed with Prof. Ashwini Nangia of University of Hyderabad as the Chairman. Prof. Nangia, Prof. K. Byrappa (University of Mysore) and Prof. P. Chakrabarti presented our papers to EC on August 22, prior to the start of the Congress. The EC was happy with our presentation and suggested to include some responses to their queries when the presentation was made to the General Assembly by Prof. Nangia. There were two other contenders – Canada and Czech Republic. In the first round of voting Czech was voted out. In the final round we lost to Canada (Montreal). However, it was unofficially learnt that the fight with Canada

(which was in the race much before we were even thinking of making this attempt) was close and we could create a positive vibe among the delegates. The general feeling has been that if we make the same presentation in 2011 Congress to be held in Madrid, we would win with our bid to organize the 2017 Congress. This time INSA had supported our bid activities with a grant of Rs. 1 lakh. The amount was used to make posters/banners/pamphlets, video material describing crystallographic activities in India and also showcasing the country as a tourist destination. Personnel at the Indian Embassy, Tokyo also came forward to provide material at our booth in the Congress. A photograph of some delegates from India in front of the Indian counter is provided in Appendix I. Considering the goodwill that was built for India in the Osaka Congress and the fact that no country is successful in the first attempt, we would like to try again at the Madrid Congress for hosting the 2017 Congress in India. We hope that INSA would keep supporting our activities to enable us to make a successful bid. As the next AsCA meeting would be held in Beijing during October 22-25, 2009, it would be important for the delegates from India to convey to other participants, and especially to the AsCA Council Members of our resolve to organize the 2017 IUCr Congress in India. There has to be discussion within the community to decide on the venue of the Congress in India and who would present the bid papers in the next Congress. We should have a firm plan on these by October 2010, when the AsCA meeting is held at Busan, Korea.

2) Utilization certificate of the INSA grant to support the Indian bid to organize the 2014 Congress in India

To support our bid process this committee had decided in the last meeting to request for a grant from INSA, which sanctioned an amount of one lakh rupees. This was used by Prof. Ashwini Nangia to prepare brochures/posters/CD etc and to transport these to Osaka. An amount of Rs. 71,456 was utilized, and he has returned the balance to INSA (Appendix II).

3) Subscription to IUCr and AsCA in 2009

As a member in the adherence category III, our annual subscription to IUCr is SFr 6000 and the invoice for 2009 has been received. As regard to AsCA subscription, INSA has received a letter (provided on pages 104-105 of the Agenda papers for this year's ICSU National Committee Meeting, prepared by INSA) from Prof. Mitchell Guss (President, AsCA) mentioning that our subscription at the level 4(III) has increased to A\$400 (from A\$240 last year). It was also mentioned that we can either pay A\$400 for this year or pay A\$1000 for three years (and save A\$200). The Committee resolved to pay the fees annually at A\$400 per year.

4) INSA support to participate in IUCr meetings in 2008, and consideration of applications to attend IUCr-sponsored meetings in 2009

Based on the recommendation of the Committee, INSA provided partial financial support to the following in 2008:

1. Prof. RS Tiwari, BHU (to attend International conference on Quasi crystals (ICQ10), ETH, Zurich, July 6-11, 2008)
2. Dr. Arunava Chakrabarti, Univ Kalyani (-do-)
3. Prof. Ashwini Nangia, Univ Hyderabad (To attend the IUCr Congress at Osaka during Aug 23-31, 2008)
4. Prof. Chandana Chakrabarti, Saha Inst Nucl Phys, Kolkata (-do-)
5. Prof. Dhananjai Pandey, BHU (-do-)
6. Prof. Pinak Chakrabarti, Bose Institute (-do-)
7. Prof. K. Byrappa, Univ Mysore (-do-)
8. Prof. Rajnikant, Univ Jammu (-do-)
9. Prof. Punit Kaur, AIIMS, N.Delhi (-do-)
10. Mr. Prem Singh Kaushal, MBU, IISc (-do-)
11. Mr. Amit Delori, NCL (-do-)

So far no application has been received for consideration of financial support in the current financial year. The major IUCr sponsored meeting this year would be the AsCA meeting at Beijing during October. It was decided that when the applications are received by INSA and forwarded to the Chairman of the Committee there would be discussion through emails among the committee members and decision taken. But we should try to see that a substantial number of Indian participants, especially students, are supported.

5) Quantum of support to student participants to ICSU meetings

Normally a token support of Rs. 15,000/- used to be given to student participants to attend international meeting. Considering the increase in cost of living, last year we had recommended Rs.30,000/- for the two student participants. It was decided that the student support should be at this level, or the actual amount asked for, whichever is smaller.

6) Liaison with ICA on recommending (to various national granting agencies) participation of young faculty/students to international meetings

There was decision at the ICA that based on the applications received they would recommend the deserving/promising candidates for financial support from various funding agencies, including INSA. The Chairman of the Committee may interact with the President, ICA in this regard. Attempts should be made to see that about ten young faculties (especially the ones within 5 years of appointment) and students can participate in various AsCA meetings and IUCr Congress.

7) Issues related to the activities of National Committees of ICSU, their interaction with the corresponding international union and the national committee, etc.

At present there are twelve scientists from India occupying various positions in IUCr EC and Commissions. It is expected that they would take part in the activities of the IUCr

with zeal and vigor and enhance our visibility in IUCr. It was decided that the Chairman should write to these scientists for their active involvement.

The names (given on page 177 of INSA agenda papers) are:

- i) Prof. GR Desiraju Member, IUCr Executive Committee and Member, Commission on Crystallography in Art & Cultural Heritage
- ii) Dr. Dhananjai Pandey Member, Commission on Inorganic & Mineral Structure & Consultant, Commission on Mathematical & Theoretical Crystallography
- iii) Dr. K. Byrappa Member, Commission on Crystal Growth & Characterization of Materials
- iv) Dr. T.N. Guru Row Member, Commission on Crystallographic Teaching
- v) Dr. N.K. Mukhopadhyay Member, Commission on Aperiodic Crystals
- vi) Dr. D.M. Salunke Consultant, Commission on Biological Macromolecules
- vii) Dr. K. Sekar Member, Commission on Crystallographic Computing
- viii) Dr. A.K. Mukherjee Consultant, Commission on Powder Diffraction
- ix) Dr. K. Madangopal Consultant, Commission on Electron Crystallography
- x) Dr. N. Garg Consultant, Commission on High Pressure
- xi) Dr. P.S.R. Krishna Member, Commission on Neutron Scattering
- xii) Dr. A. Nangia Member, Commission on Structural Chemistry

On a different issue it was decided to suggest to ICA if its National Seminar can be held every alternate year, and intersperse it with intensive workshop/school on a specific crystallographic topic (that may be sponsored by IUCr). This may help in improving the quality of the National Seminars and also expose students to new ideas in crystallography.

8) Any other business

There has been a suggestion to have an item on the National Committee of IUCr in the ICA website. The minutes of this meeting and any other relevant information on IUCr that may be of use to the Indian crystallographers may be posted there.

Appendix I

Some delegates in front of the Indian counter displaying material in support of our bid to organize IUCr 2014 Congress in India



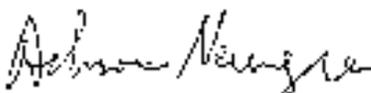
Appendix II

Copy of the utilization certificate (as prepared by Prof. A. Nangia) of the grant received from INSA to support our bid process at the Osaka Congress

UTILISATION CERTIFICATE

Certified that out of Rs. 1,00,000/- of grants sanctioned during the year 2008-2009 in favour of Prof. Ashwini Nangia, University of Hyderabad by INSA under Letter No. 2008/1002 dt. 26-06-2008, a sum of Rs. 71,456/- has been utilised for the purpose of Conference booth at IUCr 2008 furnishing, stationery items, display material, posters, brochures, postage, and telecommunication for which it was sanctioned and that the balance of Rs. 28,544/- remaining unutilised after the conference is returned to INSA vide cheque No. 810534 dt. 12-01-09 drawn on SBI, HU Campus, Hyderabad 500 019.

Item-wise bills and expenditure statement for Rs. 71,456/- are sent to INSA through our letter dt. 06-11-2008.



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The Council of the Indian National Science Academy at its meeting on October 4, 2007 has reconstituted the following National Committee of IUCr for a period of four years w.e.f. January 1, 2008.

1. Prof. Pinak Chakrabarti – Chairman; Bose Institute, Kolkata 700054 (Email: pinak@boseinst.ernet.in or piak_chak@yahoo.co.in)

2. Dr. C.G. Suresh, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune 411008 (Email: cg.suresh@ncl.ere.in)

3. Prof. K. Byrappa, University of Mysore, Mysore 570006 (Email: kbyrappa@gmail.com)

4. Prof. Ashwini Nangia, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad 500046 (Email: ashwini.nangia@gmail.com)

5. Dr. S.K. Halder, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi 110012 (Email: skhalder@mail.nplindia.ernet.in)
