

**Minutes of meeting in Corfu of IASSAR CSMSE Umbrella chairman, SC chairmen / vice chairmen, IASSAR Executive Board members, and IASSAR officials.**

The meeting took place on Monday June 10, 6:20 to 7:50 PM at the Marbella Hotel.

**Participants:**

G. Augusti (President of IASSAR), M. Shinozuka (Executive Vice President of IASSAR), R.B. Corotis (and member of IASSAR Executive Board), G.I. Schueller (chairman of IASSAR Executive Board and chairman of SC1), G. Deodatis (vice chairman of SC1), A. Naess (vice chairman of SC2), D. Frangopol (vice chairman of SC3), K. Sobczyk (Chairman of SC4), O. Ditlevsen (Umbrella Chairman and member of IASSAR Executive Board).

Excuses from N. Shiraishi and W.H. Tang (members of IASSAR Executive Board), Y.K. Wen (and member of IASSAR Executive Board and chairman of SC2), A. Der Kiureghian (chairman of SC3), J.L. Beck (chairman of SC5).

**Minutes:**

Point 2 on the agenda was about the role of the SCs and of the Umbrella and its chairman.

The chairman of the Umbrella was supported in his view that it is better not to call for meetings of the Umbrella Committee (the union of all SCs) in the future. Consequently the chairman will communicate solely with the SC chairmen and vice chairmen except for a formal welcome to new members. In turn the SC chairs communicate with the members of their SC. The welcome to new members also ensures that the information about members on the IASSAR home page is currently updated.

The Umbrella chairman emphasized that it is the responsibility of the SC chairs to keep the SCs active. No activity make the members forget that they are members of the committee.

Partly with reference to the fast development of data collection and data processing technology, professor Shinozuka suggested that the SCs try to foresee and point out new important engineering fields of application of probabilistic methods of value to the society.

He also urged the SCs to collect interrelated but individually SC member authored papers on particular topics of relevance within the domain of the SC. Such a paper collection should then be submitted to a relevant journal as a special topic issue. Before submission the papers should undergo review within the SC such that the entire SC can support that the papers be accepted by the journal. This is intended as a quality control that should

increase the likelihood that the journal's own reviewers will accept the paper collection as a special issue.

Point 3 on the agenda was about a suggestion in a mail by professor Armen Der Kiureghian (chair of SC3) by May 31, 2002, following up on a decision made at the Umbrella Committee meeting in Newport Beach, June 17, 2001:

*"At the meeting in June, the CSMSE members talked about the idea of producing a handbook in each of the sub-committee areas. I personally think that is too ambitious a goal. A more immediate and achievable goal is to produce a glossary of technical words in each sub-committee area. According to my MS Bookshelf, a glossary is "A list of difficult or specialized words with their definitions, often placed at the back of a book." In my opinion, a glossary would be very useful in our field of structural reliability and optimization in two ways: (a) it will help harmonize the usage of technical words by researchers and practitioners in the field, (b) it will help familiarize the non-expert with the correct definition of the technical words. If you agree, I would like to propose that we proceed as follows:*

- 1. First we prepare a list of key technical words in the field.*
- 2. Each member volunteers to prepare a concise and precise definition (no more than 3-4 lines) for one or several key technical words.*
- 3. Once we have a good number (say a dozen or so) of the key word definitions, we circulate them for review/comment/approval by other members.*
- 4. Once a key word and definition have been approved by a majority of the members, we catalog it. In time, we will have a good data base.*

*Please let me know if you are interested in this type of an effort. We will also need volunteers, who are willing to maintain the data base of key words and definitions and circulate them when appropriate."*

It was generally approved that all the SCs should work on such glossaries. The terminology suggestions can be currently communicated on the IASSAR home page, first separately for each committee, and later edited together to a glossary recommended by the entire CSMSE.

Point 4 on the agenda was the question:

Should an informal cooperation between the IASSAR and CERRA be initiated?

Armen Der Kiureghian has in the same mail as referred to above written the following:

*"ICASP9:*

*As most of you know, I will be chairing the next ICASP, which will be held July 6-9, 2003, in San Francisco. I would like to see a closer cooperation between members of IASSAR and ICASP. The ICOSSAR and ICASP conferences each have their important roles in our field. While ICOSSAR is more focused on structural reliability and stochastic mechanics, ICASP emphasizes risk analysis in a broader sense. Hence, these conferences are complementary. I would welcome, in fact encourage, members of this and the other sub-committees of CSMSE to contribute papers to ICASP9 or organize technical sessions for it."*

The discussion on this point was quite positive even including considerations of merging IASSAR and CERRA into one single organization. It was agreed that such radical plans presently are not on the agenda but also that a fusion should not be excluded some time in the future.

The actual suggestion by Armen Der Kiureghian was supported without objections given that it would be clearly stated in the conference program of ICASP9 that such special sessions are arranged by SCs of IASSAR CSMSE.

Professor Arvid Naess suggested that IASSAR offered a sponsorship (not necessarily including economical support) of ICASP9 conference. It is up to Armen Der Kiureghian to take up this idea and approach the IASSAR president and the IASSAR executive board about this question.

Professor Dan Frangopol proposed to establish a brainstorming group to develop a list of organizations to be contacted to establish collaboration/liaison with IASSAR. There was some discussion in favor of this proposal.

The Umbrella chairman thanks the participants for a useful meeting in a positive spirit.

Kgs Lyngby June 19, 2002

Ove Ditlevsen