ICLP Scientific Committee Meeting
Lausanne, March 19-20, 2012
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

Minutes

March 19: 9 AM to 6 PM
March 20: 9 AM to 12 PM

Present:
Members:
Christian Bouquegneau, Vernon Cooray, Gerhard Diendorfer, Fridolin Heidler, Marek
Loboda, Carlo Alberto Nucci, Farhad Rachidi, Marcos Rubinstein

ICLP 2010 Committee:
Gianni Celli

ICLP 2012 Committee:
S. Pack, W. Schulz

Excused:
Istvan Berta, Zdobislaw Flisowski, Tibor Horvath, Jostein Huse, Ian Jandrell, Tatsuo
Kawamura, Carlo Mazzetti, Eric Montandon, Aage Pedersen, Alexandre Piantini, Vladimir
Rakov, Shigeru Yokoyama, Fabio Fiamingo (Technical Secretary)

1. Opening of the meeting
Farhad Rachidi (FR) welcomed the members and opened the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda
The Agenda of the meeting was approved by the members.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Cagliari meeting
The minutes of the ICLP SC meeting in Cagliari were confirmed.

4. Excuse by absent members
FR conveyed received apologies from absent members and honorary members (I. Berta, Z.
Pedersen, A. Piantini, V. Rakov, S. Yokoyama, F. Fiamingo).

5. Financial report for the 30th ICLP in Uppsala
Gianni Celli presented the final financial report of the 30th ICLP in Cagliari (Enclosure 1). The
report was accepted by the members. An amount of € 2500.- will be transferred to the ICLP
Executive board to cover current expenses.
FR reiterated the gratitude of the ICLP SC to the LOC of the 2010 Meeting, in particular to
6-8. Information by the 31st ICLP Chair

- Submission and review process. Preliminary program

Wolfgang Schulz (WS) and Stephan Pack (SP) reported on the received submissions and the review process (Enclosures 2 and 3).

A total number of 325 extended abstracts were received, which is a record in the history of ICLP. Each paper was reviewed by at least two independent reviewers. In some borderline cases when the two reviewers' recommendations were not convergent, papers were reviewed by a third expert. In total, about 270 papers were accepted (including a few 'conditionally accepted ones'), corresponding to a rejection rate of about 17%.

A preliminary conference program was proposed and approved in the meeting. The final program will be organized as follows:
- The conference will be held during 4 and half days, Monday morning through Friday noon.
- The opening ceremony and the invited lecture(s) will be organized on Monday morning.
- A total of 30 oral sessions (including 3 special sessions on lightning protection of smart grids, wind turbines, high resolution spatial analysis of lightning parameters) accommodating 160 to 180 contributions will be organized in two parallel sessions from Monday afternoon till Friday noon.
- Depending on the final number of accepted papers, 1 or 2 poster sessions will be organized during the week.

- Organization of ICLP and Financial Planning

Gerhard Diendorfer (GD) reported on the organization of the 31st ICLP and on the provisional financial planning (Enclosure 4).

The Welcome Reception will take place on Sunday night and the Gala Dinner on Tuesday night. An excursion will be organized and offered to the participants on Thursday afternoon. Lunches will be provided to the participants.

In conclusion, the 31st ICLP Organizing Committee members were commended by the SC members for their excellent job in conducting the review process and in preparing the meeting.

9. Appointment of Chairpersons

It was decided to invite two chairpersons for each session. A list of possible candidates was prepared. It was also decided to prepare a one-page report to be filled out by the Chairpersons of each session. The report will essentially contain the following information:
- Comment on the way the session was organized, suggestions to improve
- Paper no-show
- Propose, if applicable, a young scientist award
- Propose, if applicable, papers to be selected for a special issue.

10. Decision on invited lectures/speakers

Two invited lectures will be organized at the 31st ICLP. The following speakers have been suggested and unanimously accepted by the Committee:

1. Phil Krider who will present a historical lecture on Benjamin Franklin.
2. Andy Plumer who will present a lecture on lightning protection of wind turbines and impact of CRP on LPS.

11. Lightning Protection course

Provided that the preliminary program will be organized over the whole week, it was decided not to organize the course on lightning protection.

12. Historical Proceedings

Gerhard Diendorfer presented the format of the historical proceedings that will be offered as a gift to all the attendees of the 31st ICLP in Vienna (in the form of a DVD). After the meeting, the DVD will be available for sale on the OVE website.

The DVD contains the symposium digest for 29 editions of the ICLP meetings, starting from the second back in 1952. The digest contains over 3500 technical papers that have been presented in the past meetings and it constitutes a fantastic collection for engineers and researchers active in the field of lightning.

Gerhard Diendorfer and his collaborators from OVE were commended for their outstanding work, which will be one of the highlights of the next meeting.

13. Approval of the preliminary 2012 conference budget

The proposed preliminary budget (Enclosure 4) was approved by the SC members. The SC members might receive a discount in the registration fee, depending on the financial situation and the number of participants. Honorary members will, however, certainly receive a discount in their registration fees. It was also decided to allocate an amount of € 1000.- to the recipients of the Young Scientist Awards. The amount will be shared among the recipients.

14. IEEE co-sponsorship

After a long silence from IEEE and thanks to the efforts of Gerhard Diendorfer and Carlo Alberto Nucci, the MoU was finally approved by IEEE. The confirmation message was received during our SC meeting in Lausanne. Gerhard Diendorfer will now move forward to make sure that the ICLP 2012 papers will appear in the IEEExplore database.

15. ICLP Awards

The SC members expressed their gratitude to the ICLP Award Committee (Istvan Berta, Carlo Alberto Nucci and Vlad Rakov). This Committee will be in charge of the selection of ICLP Young Scientist Awards during the conference. On the basis of the Session Chair recommendations, the Award Committee members will propose nominations for Young Scientist Awards and Diplomas. To be eligible for these awards, the nominated persons should be less than 35 years old first authors who have presented their papers. As usual, the Committee proposals will be confirmed during a short meeting before the closing ceremony at which the awards will be announced and given to the recipients. In the program, papers eligible for Young Scientist Awards will be highlighted. As mentioned in point 13, a lumped sum of € 1000.- will be shared among the recipients of the ICLP Young Scientist Awards.

As regards the Berger, Golde and Fellow awards, it was decided to name a second committee which will be formed by Christian Bouquegneau, Carlo Mazzetti and Marcos Rubinstein. The Committee members along with the ICLP President will submit a proposal to the SC committee members for approval.
The Berger, Golde and Fellow awards will be presented at the Gala Dinner, on Tuesday night. During the discussion, it was proposed to change the name of one of the Awards, namely the International Fellow Award, for essentially two reasons: (1) the word ‘International’ is not needed because we are indeed an international organization, and (2) the term fellow is generally used as a grade (such as IEEE fellow) and not as an award. Several possibilities were considered and finally the following name was unanimously approved: Scientific Committee Award. Should an absent member have a strong objection on this proposed change, he is requested to send a message to the SC members.

16. Status of the ICLP SC membership and current affairs

Presently, the ICLP SC is composed of 14 people, including the President and Vice-President. According to the ICLP statutes, the number of members should not exceed 15.

During the previous meeting in Cagliari, it was decided to conduct a vote on

(1) the inclusion of Jinliang He in the SC, and

(2) an amendment of the ICLP Statute to guarantee a European majority in the ICLP SC.

The vote was conducted in 2011 and FR presented the results which are summarized hereafter.

Total votes received: 9
Inclusion of Jinliang He in the SC: 8 yes, 1 blank.
Change of the ICLP Statute: 3 yes, 5 no, 1 blank.

In conclusion, Jinliang He was approved as the 15th member of the ICLP SC and no changes will be made to the ICLP Statute.

During the meeting, it was mentioned that presently the SC does not have any representative from some key countries, such as France, Norway or Spain. It was suggested that the number of SC members should be increased to 17 (or 15, excluding the President and VicePresident) to make it possible to have two new members. Possible suggested names were Joan Montanya (Spain), Hans Hoidalen (Norway).

This issue will be discussed at the next meeting and a decision will be taken on the possible increase of the number of SC members.

17. Information on the 32nd ICLP (Shanghai)

The official announcement of the venue of the 32nd ICLP in Shanghai will be made during the conference in Vienna. The first call for papers will be distributed among the participants and a presentation by Jinliang He, Chairman of the 32nd ICLP will be given at the closing ceremony.


Ian Jandrell has expressed his interest to host one of the next ICLP conferences in South Africa. It should be noted that the 33rd ICLP meeting should be organized in Europe. The South African proposal could be therefore considered for subsequent events, namely in 2018 or 2020. Chandima Gomez from the Center of Excellence on Lightning Protection in Malaysia has also expressed interest in organizing one of the future ICLP events.

For the conference in 2016, the following possible locations have been discussed: Lausanne,
Switzerland; Munich, Germany; Ljubljana, Slovenia; and Barcelona, Spain.

Stephan Pack will discuss the issue with M. Babuder from Ljubljana to check whether he is still interested in organizing ICLP. FR will contact Joan Montanya to see his interests to organize ICLP in Barcelona.

19. Journal of Lightning Research

Vernon Cooray informed the committee that the major drawback to the journal is that it is not included in the citation database. The problem is worsened by the introduction of hundreds of new open access journals by publishers whose aim is just to earn money without much regard for the quality of the published material.

Since the papers that are published in JLR do not appear in the Science Citation Index, many authors prefer to publish their papers in other journals which are included in the Citation Index. For the same reason, when selecting journals for special issues of ICLP it is recommended to select journals which are included in Science Citation Index. Fortunately, JLR is included in Google Scholar and some funding agencies (for example the Swedish Science Research Council) accept Google Scholar as a valid citation database.

20. Special Issues for ICLP 2012

The following special issues will be considered

- Journal of Electrostatics: Vernon Cooray will contact the journal to organize a special issue.
- Electric Power Systems Research: Carlo Alberto Nucci is the Editor and offered to organize a special issue on ICLP 2012.

Provided that the papers presented at ICLP 2012 will appear in the IEEExplore database, it was stressed that it should be made clear to the authors of the selected papers that an expanded version should be prepared and submitted for the special issue.

21. Future of the ICLP SC Executive Board

According to the ICLP Statute, the ICLP Executive Board (EB) is appointed for a period of 4 years and can be re-elected for two more terms. The present EB was formed after the ICLP meeting in Uppsala (2008). FR expressed his desire to step down as the ICLP President and proposed that in 2014, namely after one term and a half, a new team will take over the EB. The proposed candidates for the new EB are:

Vernon Cooray for the President
Carlo Alberto Nucci for the Vice President.

The present members of the meeting unanimously supported this proposal. The fact that Vernon Cooray has been serving as Vice President assures the continuity in the ICLP EB. The final decision and confirmation will be taken at the next meeting in Vienna.

22. Position of ICLP on the ESE issue

At the ICLP scientific committee meeting, the issue of ESE and the ICLP’s role in the matter was discussed and all the members present during the meeting agreed to the following.

- Following its statutes, the ICLP should play a prominent role in educating the public and other engineering bodies on the perils of using scientifically unproven lightning protection methods in practice. ICLP should also issue statements regarding its stand
on this matter either to the public or to other engineering bodies whenever such statements are requested.

- The ICLP webpage should also contain all the scientific information on this matter and copies of statements issued by ICLP to the public or other engineering bodies.

- ICLP should under no circumstances allow the display of these unproven systems during its conferences. Moreover, it should not accept any papers advocating scientifically unproven lightning protection procedures in its conferences. However, papers discussing these issues on a valid scientific basis should be accepted if they are favourably reviewed by the scientific committee and independent reviewers.

- All the members present agreed that ICLP is not a standardizing body and the standardization of lightning protection systems should be left to the respective standardizing bodies such as IEC. Any conflict in the standardization of lightning protection systems should be left to the standardizing bodies to resolve. However, ICLP should educate these standardizing bodies on the scientific merits of lightning protection systems whenever such education is called for.

23. Next ICLP SC Meeting

The next ICLP SC meeting will be organized during the ICLP 2012 Conference in Vienna. The exact date and time will be announced by Gerhard Diendorfer.

24. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed on Tuesday, March 20 at noon.