

MINUTES

Of the General Assembly of the Society for Free Radical Research International

Held on Monday 20th October 2008, 17:00-18:00 during the XIV Biennial Meeting of the Society

Venue: Jiuhoa Spa and Resort, Beijing, China

1) Apologies for absence

Past-President: Prof. T. Yoshikawa

2) Minutes of last general assembly

These were agreed to be an accurate description of the business discussed at the meeting

3) Matters arising from minutes

None

4) Report of President (Enrique Cadenas)

a) The President reported that the current meeting had been a good opportunity to increase the membership and profile of SFRR and particularly SFRR-Asia, with a large number of host-country scientists (estimated to be ca. 320) attending the meeting.

b) This situation with regard to some of the sub-regional groupings (e.g. SFRR-Japan, SFRR-India, SFRR-China) within the overall SFRR-International needs to be clarified and resolved as it is currently unclear as to how these groups interact with the parent and international bodies. This would be addressed by the international committee.

c) The President commented that bids for future Biennial meetings would only be considered if they were coordinated by and unreservedly supported by the corresponding regional grouping. This should minimise any future problems in the relationship between the meeting organisers and the regional group.

5) Report of President-Elect (Angelo Azzi)

The incoming President commented that he has developed a number of strategic objectives for his term as president. These include:

a) Increasing participation of individuals in the society and developing better contacts between individual scientists and the international community.

b) Refinancing the international body by developing a series of fundraising / income-generating strategies. The current financial resources of the society had been decreasing over a number of years as a result of meeting support and travel grants / fellowships. This is of considerable and major importance, as without funds little can be done. These strategies may include approaches to other bodies to financially support the scientific and educational activities of the international body, thereby releasing funds for other purposes. Significant sums appear to be available for such purposes.

c) Increasing links between SFRR-International and other scientific bodies to allow interchange of ideas between fields.

d) Increase interaction and participation of younger scientists. The Summer Schools run by the European region at Spetses have been highly successful and plans are now afoot to “clone” this model at other locations around the globe. Plans are already well underway for a similar type of School for postgraduate students in Japan. This will be held at Takaragawa Spa, Gunma, Japan between the 2-6th Sept. 2009. The current plan is hold these schools every two years out of phase with the European schools. It is hoped that this model could also be extended to other regions such as South America and India.

e) The medals associated with the new “Azzi Awards” for interdisciplinary research were displayed. Such awards should encourage younger scientists in their efforts.

6) Report of Treasurer (Henry Forman)

The Treasurers report was presented by the Secretary-General. There was a slight decrease in the financial assets of the society arising from the support offered to various meetings including the current Biennial meeting, the next Biennial meeting in 2010, the Spetses School, and other meetings around the globe. The current assets of the society are 2595.30 Euros, and 65,414.43 UK pounds compared to 72,855 UK pounds reported in the minutes of the previous Biennial meeting in Davos.

7) Report of Secretary-General (Michael Davies)

In the period since the last General Meeting:

a) The website has been re-designed twice. This can be found at: www.sfrr.org
Any articles / information for inclusion (e.g. announcement of meetings) should be sent to:
daviesm@hri.org.au

b) International committee has met on several occasions.

c) The committee has considered applications for support of 8 meetings in various locations around the globe and awarded funds to 50% of these.

d) Supported the ‘Summer Schools’ held in Spetses in Greece.

e) Provided financial support for this Biennial meeting, including Travel Grants and the new “Azzi Awards” for interdisciplinary research.

f) Concluded an agreement with SFRBM for the hosting of the next Biennial meeting. This will be held in conjunction with the annual SFRBM meeting.

This will be held 17-22 November, 2010 at the Caribe Royale Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, USA

g) The international committee is currently considering bids for the 2012 meeting.

8) Election of President-Elect for 2009-2010

A single nomination had been received in the correct format for this position. It was therefore agreed unanimously that Prof. Malcolm Jackson would serve as President-Elect for the years 2009 and 2010.

9) Any other business

In response to questions from the audience:

a) It was commented that it was up to the individual regions as what categories of membership were offered. Most regions had separate categories for student and more senior researchers, and this appeared to work successfully.

b) In response to comments about the level of dues raised by the International society from the regions, it was agreed that this could and should not be the major source of funding for the international organization. If anything it would be desirable to reduce these fees to encourage greater membership.