

C13 - Commission on Physics for Development Report from Paulo Murilo Castro de Oliveira (Chair)

Report on the IUPAP-C13 meeting, August 17, 2013

The annual meeting of the C13 IUPAP commission (physics for development) occurred in Trieste, August 17, 2013, hosted by our traditional partner institution ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics). Present at this meeting were Paulo Murilo Castro de Oliveira (chair), Sandro Scandolo (vice-chair), Ahamadou Wague (secretary), the members Carmen Cisneros, Sekazi Mtingwa, Dénes Nagy, Samuel Mensah, Mourad Telmini and Fernando Quevedo (C13 associated and ICTP director). By skype, member Anatoly Dvurechensky also participated.

C13 has improved a lot its actions during the last decade, good events (congresses and schools) were sponsored in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all of them very well evaluated by the physics community (ASESMA school in Africa, for instance, was awarded last year by ICSU, the IUPAP mother institution). The number of students profiting from these events grew consistently during this period. Now the number of applications for 2014 has exploded, we received 7 good applications. However, the C13 budget is only 21,000 euro per year, with a maximum share of 7,000 euro per each sponsored event (IUPAP type D). Before, the maximum number of received applications was 4, last year. During the meeting, it was a consensus that all 7 applications present very good quality, deserving IUPAP endorsement. We recommend this action to IUPAP council.

The conference application from Romania (Advanced many-body and statistical methods in mesoscopic systems - second edition), however was considered not fitting the scope of IUPAP type D conference. Therefore, C13 decided not recommend financial support. Also, the conference application from Tunisia (First African Conference on Optics and Applications to Sustainable Development, supposed to occur this year (2013)) should have been sent to IUPAP one year ago. It was accepted by IUPAP administration, probably, by mistake. Anyway, for that reason C13 decided not to recommend financial support. Concerning the other 5 applications, C13 evaluated that all deserve the full share of 7,000 euro each, due to their quality. However, this would not fit into the current C13 budgeted. Therefore, we recommend financial support according to the following list of priorities, with the indicated values:

- 1) conference application from Senegal (LAM10 International conference on Optics and Lasers in Science and Techniques for Sustainable Development), with the full share of 7,000 euro;
- 2) school application from Nigeria (African School on Electronic Structure Methods and Application 2014, ASESMA 2014), with 6,000 euro;
- 3) conference application from Mexico (8th International Meeting on Photodynamics and Related Aspects), with 4,000 euro;
- 4) conference application from Cameroon (COOPERATIVE PHENOMENA IN CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS: FROM BEC TO NON-LINEAR OPTICS), with 2,000 euro;
- 5) school application from Senegal (Third Biennial African School of Fundamental Physics and its Applications), with 2,000 euro. Another subject treated during the meeting was the possibility of implementing a prize for outstanding individual contributions to physics in developing countries. According to the 2005 IUPAP general assembly decision, each commission has a budget for an annual young scientists prize to be awarded for outstanding scientific contributions. It was already awarded to many young scientists by other

commissions, since then. It was a consensus during the meeting that this program does not fit completely into the quoted aim of a would-be C13 prize.

Therefore, C13 consults the IUPAP council about the possibility of considering the already implemented program of young scientists prize in a slightly modified characteristic for C13 in particular, allowing us to award scientists resident in developing countries for their outstanding contributions to physics studies in these countries.

Finally, the last subject discussed in the meeting is a suggestion to IUPAP council. Existing international organisations in physics whose aims and activities are in harmony with those of IUPAP may wish to establish stable and formal link to IUPAP. This is especially important for organisations with significant impact in physics for development like associations on methods that are widely used in developing countries. Such a request was received some time ago from IBAME, the International Board on the Applications of the Mössbauer Effect. IBAME, which has been an Associated Organisation of IUPAC since many decades, asked for establishing similar links to IUPAP. Unfortunately, within the frames of the present IUPAP structure there is no room for a link to another international organisation similar to the IUPAC Associated Organisation. Existing categories like Members, Observers and Working Groups are much different in character. C13 believes that establishing a new kind of links to existing international organisations in Physics could significantly contribute to supporting IUPAP aims and activities and also contribute to the visibility of IUPAP.

Therefore C13 suggests that the IUPAP Executive Council considers setting up a new category of IUPAP Associated Organisations under similar conditions to those of the IUPAC Associated Associations.