



International Association for Automation and Robotics in Construction

Ronie Navon, Past President

To all IAARC members

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Date: 1 July 2010

Dear friends,

I came back from a wonderful ISARC 2010 in my homeland, Slovakia. It is my great pleasure to thank my friend Prof. Jozef Gasparik, the heart & engine behind this wonderful & successful event. I find Jozef an amazing individual – just one small anecdote to demonstrate this. One of the days during the conference, in the middle of the day, he invited me to a private concert – he found a piano in the lobby, sat down, played the piano & sung Beatles & other songs to me – gradually, other people joined. The picture below was taken at this occasion – this, in my opinion, is **the** picture of the conference.



Why do I think that this picture is so meaningful? I have never seen a conference organizer who could find the internal peace of mind, together with confidence in himself as well as in his team, to be able to do such a thing – normally, organizers are pressurized & can (understandably) think just about one thing at that stage.

As I have just completed the three years as IAARC's president, I would like to report about the progress we have made in the last three years as well as some news items:

1. The incoming president is Dr. Moon-Young Cho from Korea – I wish him every success & I promise to support him. The next ISARC is going to be hosted by him in Seoul at the end of June to the beginning of July 2011.
2. The incoming vice-president is Prof. Koshy Varghese from I.I.T. Madras, India – I wish him, too, a lot of success.
3. This year's Tucker-Hassegawa award went to our most professional secretariat – my friends Profs. Frans von Gassel & Ger Maas – I congratulate them for their well deserved award.
4. In 2012 ISARC is going to be hosted in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, together with the Society of Gerontechnology – we are expecting about 700 participants.
5. In 2013 ISARC is going to be hosted in Montreal, Canada, together with the Mining & Petroleum Society – we are expecting 700 – 1000 participants.

6. We already have some interest for 2014 (Greece, Brazil), but this is still premature.
7. When we started, we had no prospect for future ISARCs – now we have competing proposals to host ISARCs & firm commitments until 2013.
8. We are now cooperating with large organizations:
 - 8.1. we signed an agreement with CIB (International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction), which has two elements –
 - 8.1.1. All ISARCs are sponsored by CIB & CIB promotes our events.
 - 8.1.2. We are launching a joint working commission with CIB.
 - 8.2. Last year ISARC was held in conjunction with ASCE, which meaningfully increased the number of participants & our exposure.
 - 8.3. As mentioned above, ISARCs 2012 & 2013 will be held together with other organizations, which will triple or even quintuple the number of participants.
9. Our executive body – the board of directors (BOD) – was an "old boys club" – with an emphasis on the word "old" – there were a number of inactive members. In the last three years these people were asked to become active or to resign – we succeeded quite well with this, thus making vacancies for others. As a result there is a constant decline of the average age & we see younger faces, eager & enthusiastic individuals – this trend is even growing now.

As of this year we have the first woman on the BOD & I am confident that next year there will be at least two more women.
10. IAARC operates now within a much more structured & systematic structure – we have a BOD, which functions via committees & task forces; we have an executive BOD comprising of the immediate past president, the current president & the vice president, who will succeed the current president.

We have a secretariat, which takes care of all daily operations.
11. Our newsletter is in the capable hands of Prof. Jochen Teizer – he has done a wonderful job with it. Now Prof. Hiam Khoury, who is not a BOD member, has

volunteered to help him with this task – thank you Hiam, your way to become a BOD member is short.

12. Prof. Teizer, together with our webmaster Mr. Jonas Ahman, have given our homepage a dramatic face lift – it is now relevant, modern & dynamic. A very impressive feature is the search engine of the proceedings which are on our site. Thank you Jochen & Jonas.

13. Our proceedings are being indexed in external databases – this job is massive and it needs a lot more work. I would like to thank Prof. Carl Haas for the great job he did together with Ms. Mari Kawamoto.

14. Membership & finances

14.1. Our financial situation was good three years ago & it's even better now.

14.2. The number of corporate members has increased slightly.

14.3. We have decided that individual members do not pay membership fees because the operation of maintaining the list, billing the members & following up the payments costs more than what we receive. A by product is that we will eventually increase our membership.

15. Profs. Ger Maas & Frans von Gassel have developed two manuals, enabling our collective & cumulative knowledge to be recorded & continuously improved:

15.1. IAARC manual – a detailed document describing how to run the organization.

15.2. ISARC manual – a dynamic document helping local hosts of ISARC to plan, budget & execute a successful IAARC. The organizer of a current ISARC is, in turn, requested to revise it. The organizer of the next ISARC uses it to organize the next meeting.

16. We have just approved a pilot to launch IAARC Academy, where industry professionals will be able to take graduate level courses. When completed, they will receive a professional certificate from the academy.

Things that we have not succeeded to complete, which are the challenges of the new leadership:

1. Not all BOD members are active – they **must** finally decide if they want to become active, or resign immediately.
2. With all the progress made with the website, there is still more work to be done – this is a moving target & special attention must be given to its continual development and updating.
3. The indexing of the proceedings needs a lot more work.
4. We have not succeeded to complete & formalize the procedures for the awards – the Tucker-Hassegawa award & the best paper award.
5. A lot more work needs to be done to recruit corporate members, which are the basis for our finances.
6. The pilot with IAARC Academy needs all our support – it's like a new born baby & we all need to support Prof. Thomas Bock with this endeavor.

It was my pleasure to serve the IAARC community. I am relieved now that the burden is off me – I can devote more time now to things that I love: spend time with my dear grandchildren & acting in the theater. I wish us all continual success – we are not only a professional society, we are a family.

With love,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Navon', with a stylized flourish at the end.