



ISPN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

Executive Board Members **Newsletter, July, 2015**

Education

Wan Tew Seow, Singapore

Federico Di Rocco, Paris, France

Asian and Australasian members of the Education Committee joined with Asian pediatric neurosurgeons to participate in the 1st Congress of Asian-Australasian Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (AASPN) and Inaugural Meeting (AASPN 2015) which was held from March 20-22, 2015 in Taipei, Taiwan. Prof Tai Tong Wong, past ISPN president, was the first President of the AASPN and Dr Meng Fai Kuo was the Inaugural Congress President. This meeting marked the first time pediatric neurosurgeons from Asia and Australasia have gathered together to hold their first regional meeting. Many of the speakers for this meeting were ISPN Education Committee members, who contributed greatly to the teaching program.

A combined ISPN-AASPN-KSPN Education Course on Pediatric Neurosurgery during the 14th Asian Australasian Congress of Neurological Surgeons (AACNS) in April 2015 in Jeju Island, Korea. The theme for this Course was “Morbidities in Pediatric Neurosurgery: Untold Stories for the M&M Conference” during which case reports of complications of various pediatric neurosurgical procedures and how to avoid them were discussed by several speakers from the KSPN and AASPN. The ISPN’s contribution was Prof Dachling Pang who spoke on “Spinal Dysraphism Surgery – What Could Go Wrong?”

An ISPN Education Course was held from 13-14 June 2015 in conjunction with the Pediatric Neurosurgery Chapter of the Chinese Medical Association and the Chinese Pediatric Neurosurgery Forum in Chongqing, Western China. The course was organised together with Prof Ma Jie, Prof Ping Liang and Prof Hua Feng. Topics for the Course included various aspects of spinal dysraphism and pediatric brain tumors. More than 100 Western Chinese neurosurgeons participated in the course which was the first of its kind in this part of China.

More ISPN courses will be held later in the year, in India and in Saudi Arabia.

Scientific

Graham Fieggen, Cape-Town, South Africa

We received a large number of excellent abstracts this year and are proud to offer an exciting program comprising 80 platform presentations, 104 flash presentations and 157 posters from 41 countries, together with 19 invited speakers giving state-of-the-art updates on highly relevant topics.

The first day will be devoted entirely to neuro-oncology, starting with an update on posterior fossa tumours featuring Rick Boop, Peter Dirks, Nobuto Morota, Memet Ozek and Tad Tomita, chaired by Michel Zerah and Paul Steinbok, and the day will conclude with a wrap-up session in partnership with SIOP.

Tuesday will focus on hydrocephalus and endoscopy with a highlight being the first presentation of data from the International Infant Hydrocephalus Study. Recent advances in use of the laser will be covered by Martin Schuhmann and Hans Christof Ludwig, Tony Figaji will present a proposal for developing ISPN Guidelines and the morning will conclude with the Presidential Oration by Chandrashekhar Deopujari.

Wednesday has a very full program covering spine, epilepsy, trauma and vascular. We will kick off with a provocative session on the craniovertebral junction featuring Dachling Pang, Dominic Thompson and Doug Brockmeyer and later in the day will address challenges in education with input from Rick Abbott, Saffet Mutluer and Ganesalingham Narenthiran.

Thursday will start with an expert overview of the management of hydatid disease by Mehmet Selcuki and Ahmet Alanay. We received an outstanding selection of abstracts on craniofacial topics, which will ensure the meeting ends on a high note on Thursday.

Talks on local history by Aysegul Selcuki and Jim Goodrich will ensure we leave Izmir well educated on all fronts!

Please join us for what promises to be a stimulating and thought-provoking meeting.

Liason

Guirish Solanki, Birmingham, UK

Over the past 7 months the committee has had an opportunity to improve links with other neurosurgical societies and to look at collaboration with other societies whose aims are congruent with the stated aims of our society. It was reassuring to know that there is significant interest by some of these societies in developing links and to actively collaborate in scientific meetings.

We have explored some of these possibilities and two specific offers have now been placed for the executive board's attention and consideration. In addition we report on continuing activities of the committee.

Projects currently underway include the following:

1. List of Liaison contacts to national, regional and continental neurosurgical societies in every continent.
2. Collaboration with SIOP (International Society of Paediatric Oncology)
3. Collaboration with SIOP-E Brain Tumour Group (BTG)

List of Liaison contacts:

The development of such a list is important to cascade important information between societies and maintain links in respective websites. Access to such a list may help foster closer ties between colleagues in far off places and provide our society with relevant regional information,

Collaboration with SIOP: 2 Most of the EB is already familiar with this proposal. As Neurosurgery Co-chair of the SIOP-Europe Brain Tumour Group, it was natural that I approached SIOP to investigate opportunities for collaboration at an international level with the ISPN way back in 2012.

This is in the background of an already successful continental collaboration between the SIOP-European chapter (Brain Tumour Group) and the ESPN (European Society of Paediatric Neurosurgery) in terms of developing education and training courses in neuro-oncology for oncologists and neurosurgeons alike as well as a joint neuro-oncology scientific session at the ESPN Congress.

Over the past 3 years the Liaison Committee supported by the executive board and other committees (Scientific & Education) has fostered improving ties between Neurosurgery and Neuro-oncology.

Since 2012, the annual meetings have held a dedicated neuro-oncology session with the active participation of neuro-oncologists. This has met with a generally positive response from the membership with good attendance and feedback. In addition both SIOP and ISPN have held joint pre-congress educational activities in 2013 (SIOP, Hong Kong) and 2014 (ISPN, Rio de Janeiro) and we have planned a similar activity for 2015 at the SIOP Congress in Cape Town and the ISPN in Turkey.

Several members of national societies have expressed a desire to hold combined meetings or have joint educational or scientific activities. We are working closely with these societies to identify opportunities to work with the ISPN. It must be stressed that the existing collaboration was not intended to hold joint annual meetings of the two societies, but simply to participate in joint activities of a multi-disciplinary kind. The financial repercussions of holding of joint session are far more manageable than holding a joint meeting.

Recommendations & Suggestions:

Collaboration of this nature will require the need to involve colleagues with specialized knowledge in focus topics, and support from the education and scientific committees. I would be very pleased to hear the views of the scientific and education committees and of colleagues interested in being involved.

Many of our members are members of several societies, including their national societies, their continental societies such as the ESPN, and allied societies such as SIOP-E BTG, UKCCLG, COG, and WFNS. It is my belief that by sharing these multi-disciplinary collaborative opportunities with these societies, a true brotherhood amongst societies and a feeling of partnership will open the doors for greater transfer of knowledge and improved practices.

Collaboration will require significant planning and a critical evaluation of financial costs and member's commitment. If there is a genuine agreement and desire to proceed I am certain these issues can be successfully resolved.

Planned Next Steps:

Neuro-Oncology Session at ISPN – Izmir:

There is agreement with the scientific Chair to proceed with this and I am currently recruiting neuro-oncology speakers for this session.

Collaboration with SIOP:

The next forthcoming meeting is from the 8-11 October 2015 in Cape Town.

On the 10th October, SIOP will hold a joint Neuro-Oncology session with invited Neurosurgery speakers.

On Setting up of Continental Representatives:

Initially this is being done through volunteers expressing a desire to actively participate support and contribute to the societies aims and objectives.

Representatives for Latin-America (Artur da Cunha, Recife, Brasil), Central (Adrian Caceres, Costa Rica) and North American (Zulma-Tovar Espinosa, NY, USA), African (Tony Figaji, Cape Town, South Africa), Middle East (Ahmed Ammar, Dammam, KSA) and European (Matthieu Vinchon, Lille, france) Representatives

have already been identified. Asian and Australasian representatives responses awaited.

The continental representatives will provide information and keep an active database of regional and national societies and contacts.

They will also recommend joint scientific and educational or research proposals that can then be passed on to the executive board and other committees.

They will provide support to hold regional joint activities whenever possible

Initial meeting of a task group to look at existing Guidelines and critically appraise them

The committee hopes to look and evaluate the possibility of members setting up a group tasked with evaluating national and international guidelines and how best to homogenise these. Further details will become available later. the 11th October we plan to support the first Pan-African Neuro-Oncology Workshop and Education Day as a joint activity between ISPN, SIOP-E BTG and African Faculty

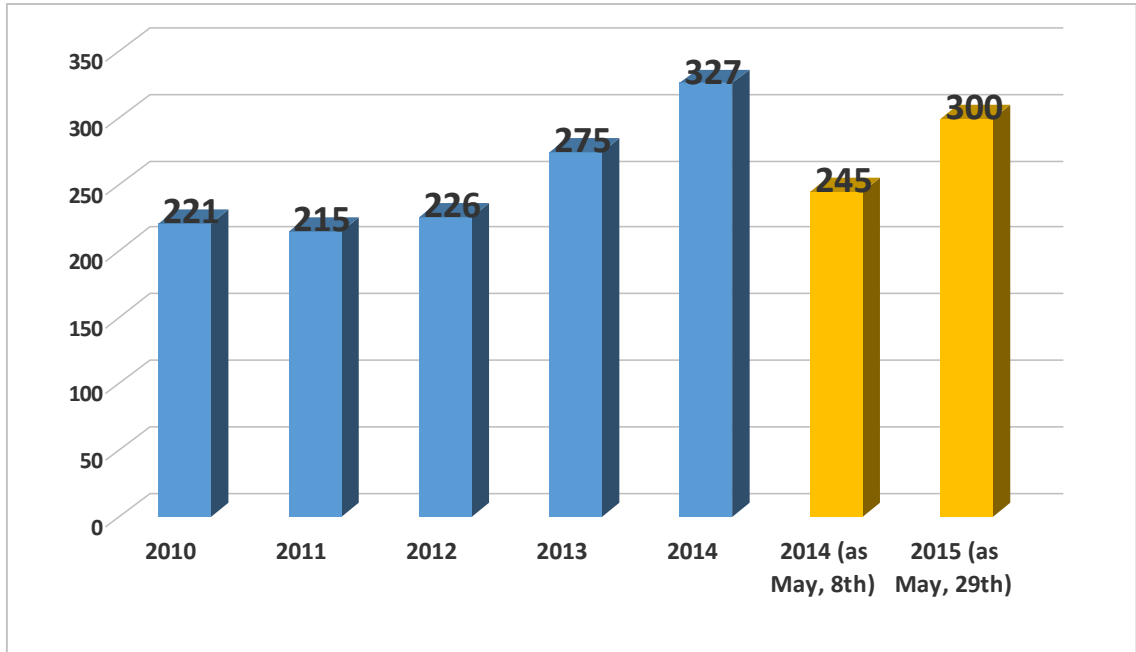
Membership

Reizo Shirane, Sendai, Japan

(in collaboration with Kenes International ®)

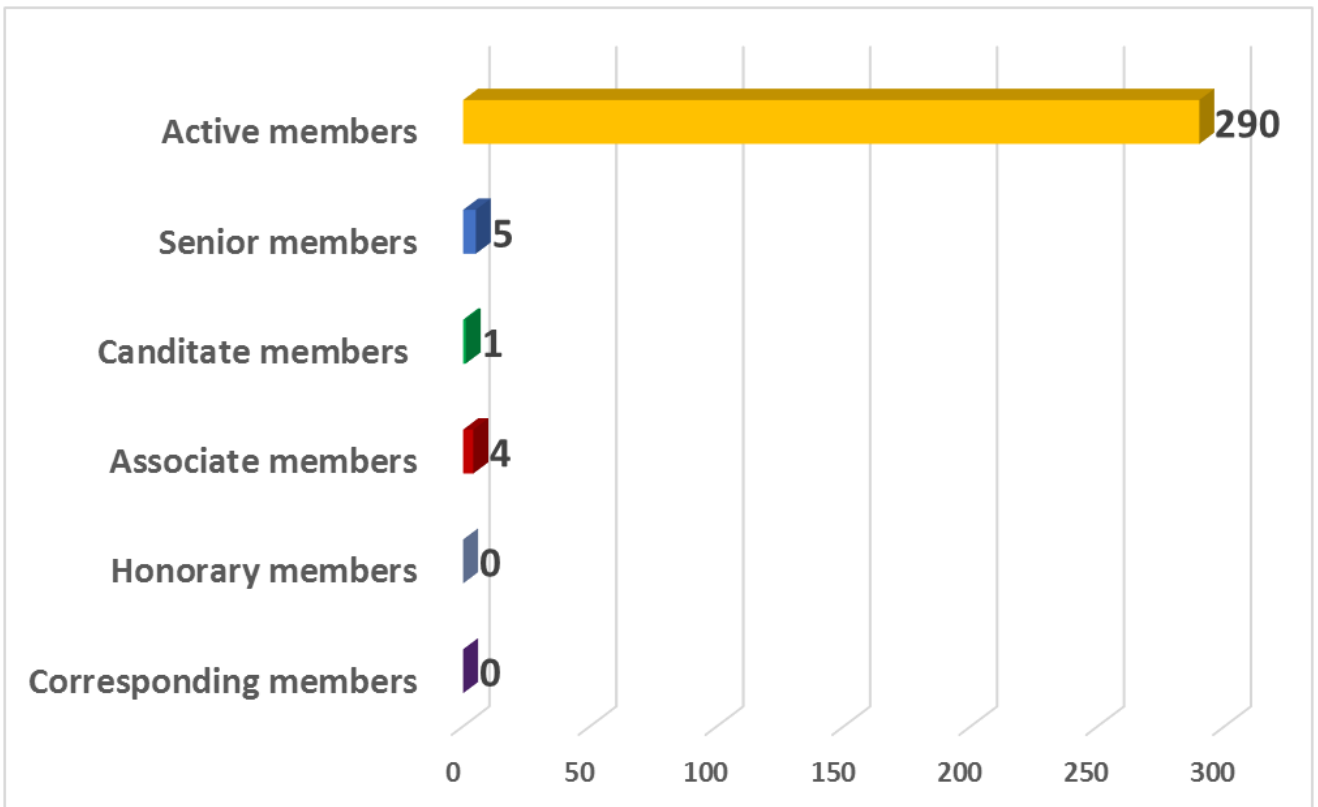
Since April 2015 a new category for Membership applications has been approved namely “Active Members Supported Countries”. Applications for this Category will be officially available for new members and already existing members since November 2015

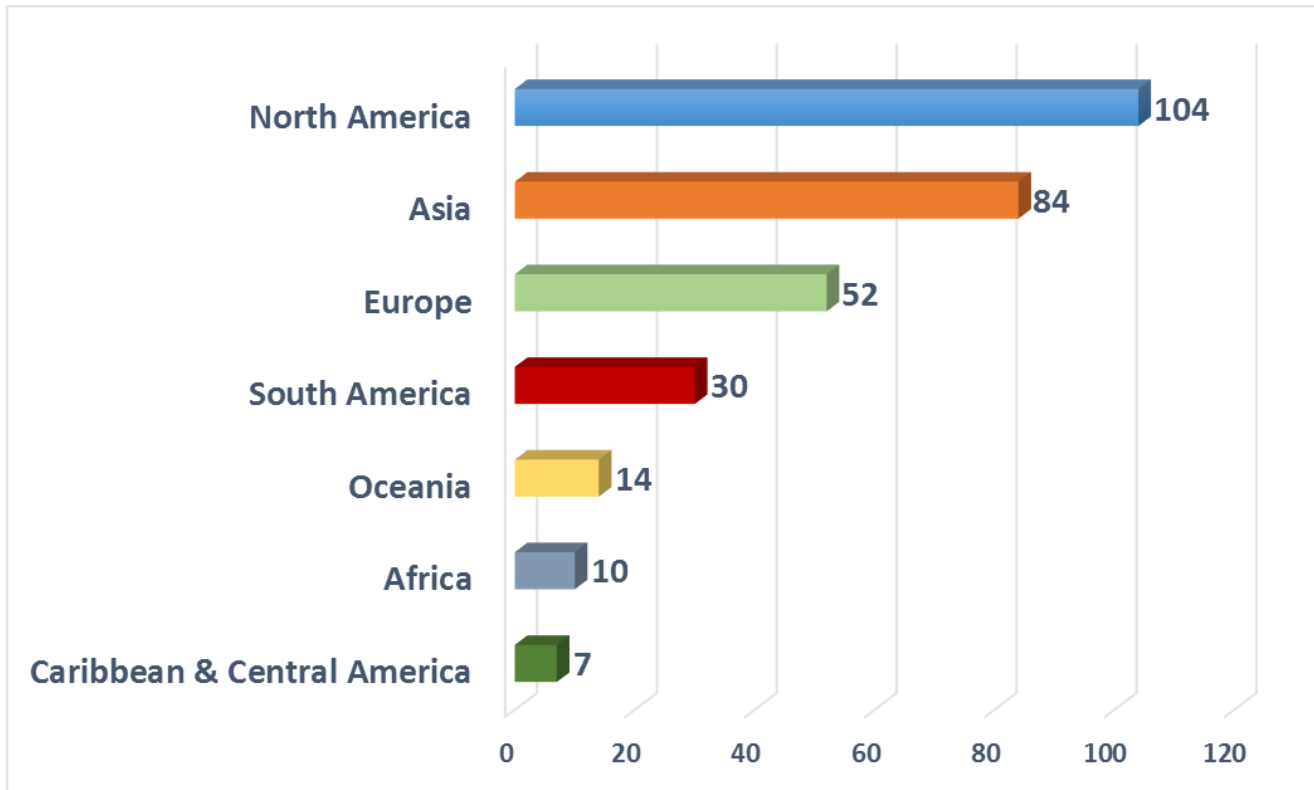
- The fee for this category will be \$100
- These members will receive online access to the journal
- Only individuals from low, and lower-middle income countries (as specified by the World Bank) will be eligible
- For new members – only those individuals from these countries will be able to apply for this category and their application will be fully checked as part of the standard process
- Existing members will be able to renew for this category, provided they are from the eligible countries
- Concerning the membership situation at May 2015 the same is resumed in the graphs below.



* Members who have paid for particular year

** According to the data received





Ways & Means

Conor Mallucci, Liverpool, UK

Five applications for fellowship sponsorship for the Izmir meeting have been received up to now.

The ISPN visiting fellowship programme has been officially approved and is active since March 2015.

For those not having received the related information, the whole actualized programme of ISPN fellowships is reported below.

1. Visiting fellowships for training in an ISPN recognized unit:

- Funding is to support a trainee to spend a period of time (6 weeks to 3 months) in an internationally recognized unit (or unit/surgeon) to acquire unique experience/surgical technique)
- The fellowship funding will contribute to travel, and living expenses. Expenses in excess of the granted amount are the responsibility of the applicant

- The duration of the visiting fellowship would be determined and confirmed in advance with the hosting institution but suggested to be between 6 weeks to 3 months
- The visiting fellowship would otherwise NOT be a salaried fellowship that already exists and is not already part of the training program of that unit
- The total sum/support will be of 5000 USD. These awards could be ratified once a year by the ways and means committee and then at each ISPN executive board meeting if required in advance of the award after appraisal of all applications
- Up to five fellowships of this kind will be awarded each year.

For Applicants

- The trainee will organize the fellowship directly with the sponsoring institution/unit and will provide evidence of acceptance from the unit and 2 referees/letters of recommendation plus letter of acceptance from the unit and specify the proposed period of time spent
- At the conclusion of the fellowship, the awardee will provide a report to the ISPN describing their experience including the time spent and an appraisal of the experience
- The training unit will provide a brief report confirming that the awardee attended the specified fellowship and for how long
- Requirements of Sponsoring Institutions/Units
- A number of units/senior trainers who are already members of ISPN and run large established units and who could accommodate such visitors could be compiled on the website with relevant contact details so that such fellowships could be organized – any senior surgeon who would be prepared to host such a visiting fellowship should be encouraged to put their name forward such that this list can be compiled
- Many large recognized training units have salaried training programs and/or salaried overseas fellowships. The ISPN Visiting Fellowship awards cannot be used to supplement existing positions
- Each unit and fellowship could be annually re-appraised depending on feedback from the awarded trainees.

2. Visiting fellowships for training in a developing Country Unit

- Funding to be sought by trainees/fellows and to support a trainee from a developed Country to spend a period of time in a recognized developing Country's unit
- The funding would provide a contribution to travel, living expenses and accommodation for a sum up to 2000 USD
- The objective of these visits would be to provide education about the management of pediatric neurosurgery conditions not usually seen in developed Countries.
- The visiting fellowship would otherwise NOT be a salaried fellowship that already exists and is not already part of the training program of that unit
- The trainee would need to organize the fellowship – provide evidence of acceptance from the unit and 2 referees/letters of recommendation plus letter of acceptance from the unit and specify the proposed period of time spent
- The awarded fellow would have to then provide a report to the ISPN after their experience detailing their time spent and an appraisal of the experience
- The training unit would also have to provide a brief report that the awardee actually attended the specified fellowship and for how long.

Up to 5 fellowships of this kind will be awarded per year

Note: All travelling awards reports (1,2) will be posted on the ISPN website

3. Awards and Support for attending ISPN annual meeting:

2 awards:

- ISPN LMIC Scholarships

Support for young neurosurgeons from underdeveloped countries to attend annual ISPN meeting:

Support for trainees from underdeveloped countries (any country classified as a Low or Middle Income Country by the World Bank) to attend with accepted abstracts for upcoming annual meeting. Five awards will be allowed each year

to be distributed according to quality of material presented between platform presentations (which will have a preference) and posters (if of quality superior to platform presentations)

Up to 5 Scholarships of this kind will be awarded per year

- ISPN Scientific Excellence Scholarships

Prize and financial award for best abstracts

To be awarded to a number of the top scoring abstracts by the scientific committee to junior neurosurgeons and trainees

For postgraduate students (including residents or fellows) or undergraduate students from any country who have submitted an abstract of exceptional scientific quality

These prizes should be awarded by the scientific committee scoring the abstracts for each annual meeting

Three awards will be recognized for platform presentations and two for posters presentations.

Specifics:

- For all scholarships, applicants must:
- Submit an abstract for consideration by the Scientific Committee
- At the time of submission, the applicant must indicate whether they wish to be considered for a scholarship
- Apply online through the relevant online link BEFORE the closing date for abstract submission
- All applicants must ensure that a letter of support is addressed to the ISPN Chair of the Ways and Means Committee; this must be from either the applicant's research supervisor indicating that the work is primarily that of the applicant (in the case of Scientific Excellence Scholarships) or from an active ISPN member (in the case of LMIC Scholarships).
- Only applicants with an abstract accepted for oral (platform or flash)
- Final selection of the applicants is done by the Ways and Means Committee after the Scientific Committee has evaluated the abstracts. All offers will be ratified by the Secretary and President of the ISPN.
- Preference may be given to candidates who:

are below 40 years of age
have not previously received an ISPN Scholarship
enhance the geographic representation of the ISPN

Timeline:

- Application for Scholarship submitted before abstract closing date.
- Scientific Committee to evaluate all abstracts and notify W&M Chair who will initiate selection process for Scholarships
- Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship application within one month of the final decision of the Scientific Committee.
- In order to confirm acceptance of the Scholarships, recipients will be expected to register for the Annual Meeting and pay the Resident registration fee, *whether a resident or not*. Failure to register within one month of notification of an award will result in cancellation of the Scholarship offer.
- Funds will be distributed by EFT AFTER the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Failure to attend the meeting will result in cancellation of the Scholarship.

Process - Money and awards:

The expenses that are eligible for the scholarship include:

1. registration; provided free of charge,
2. hotel accommodation for the duration of the meeting,
3. airfare
4. other expenses as determined by the Ways and Means committee and approved by the Executive

Criteria for Selection

1. Surgeons in training from developing countries as defined above (ISPN LMIC Scholarships)
2. An accepted abstract for platform presentation at the annual meeting (long or flash presentation)
3. A letter of reference from the applicant's training Program Director, if a trainee or the Division/Department Head, if in practice, who confirms eligibility
4. Statement of annual income and all other funding available from other sources available to the applicant to attend this meeting. When all other criteria are met, those with the least resources will be given preference.
5. Have not received this award on more than 1 occasions in the past
6. The awardees will receive their award in a suitable form (cheque, money order, bank draft) at the time of the Gala Dinner

Budget

- ISPN LMIC Scholarships and ISPN Scientific Excellence Scholarships

2000 USD will be awarded for each scholarships associated to platform presentations and 1500 USD will be awarded for each poster presentation.

The First prize award should have a specified time slot in the program. The awardee will present her or his paper following an introduction by the President. Following the presentation, the President will present the awardee with the honorarium and certificate.

Bylaws

Hamilton Matsushita, Sao Paulo, Brazil

The following preliminary modifications are suggested:

1. Article XI: Rules and Regulations. Features three sections that can be allocated to other articles of the constitution. Section 1 - could be allocated in the Article V, which deals with Meetings. Section 2 could be incorporated into the text entry of the constitution. Section 3 concerns the invited speakers could be included in Article V of the congress.
2. We are incorporating two minor amendments, already approved by the EB. One of them deals with electronic vote and the other deals with the meaning of quorum for voting any specific issue of business.