

Proposal for setting up the new category of IUPAP Associated Organisations

According to the IUPAP Statutes and By-Laws, besides Member Organisations, presently there are three schemes, according to which physics communities may establish formal links to IUPAP, those being

- Affiliated Commissions (Statutes III.2.3, V.2 and VII.4, By-Laws I.2.3);
- Working Groups (By-Laws I.2.3);
- Observers (Statutes II.4).

Affiliated Commissions are similar to IUPAP Commissions, both having voting rights in the Assembly. However, while an IUPAP Commission exclusively belongs to IUPAP, an Affiliated Commission is appointed by another scientific body.

Working Groups are set up by IUPAP and have no voting rights in the Assembly (unfortunately, no formal definition of Working Groups can be found in either the Statutes or the By-laws.)

An Observer is a representative of a regional physical society or another big international physics organisation and has no voting rights in the Assembly.

However, any existing international organisation in physics whose aims and activities are in harmony with those of IUPAP may wish to establish a stable and formal link to IUPAP at a level lower than that of Affiliated Commissions, Working Groups or Observers. This is especially important for somewhat smaller organisations with significant impact on physics for development, like associations on methods that are widely used in developing countries.

This fact has been realised a long time ago by IUPAC that now has the category of Associated Organisations (AOs) (<http://www.iupac.org/home/about/adhering-organizations/associated-organizations.html>) presently comprising 31 organisations. Belonging to this category is, first of all, a label granted by IUPAC showing the recognised calibre and scientific excellence of the organisation. IUPAC regularly checks the activity of its AOs (conferences, papers, legal documents, etc.). IUPAC electronically disseminates information received from AOs and, conversely, it supplies AOs with IUPAC information. In case of difficulties concerning free circulation of scientists at AOs' conferences (visa issues), IUPAC helps to solve the problem. AOs pay a modest fee (presently 50 USD/year) to IUPAC. Being an IUPAC AO neither means direct access, or even a preference to IUPAC conference grants, nor the right of sending an observer to IUPAC bodies. Nevertheless, it increases the renown of the AO and also contributes to IUPAC's visibility.

C13 believes that establishing a similar kind of link to existing international organisations in physics could significantly contribute to supporting IUPAP aims and activities and also contribute to the visibility of IUPAP. Linking those organisations to IUPAP via Affiliated Commissions or Working Groups does not seem to be an appropriate solution of the problem. Indeed, Affiliated Commissions and Working Groups do not cover all fields of physics and its applications. Further-

more, the activity of Working Groups may be limited to a certain period of time, which would create a further problem once these groups discontinue their activity.

Therefore C13 suggests that the IUPAP Executive Council consider establishing a new category of IUPAP Associated Organisation under similar conditions to those of the IUPAC Associated Organisations.

A request for becoming an IUPAP Associated Organisation was received some time ago from IBAME, the International Board on the Applications of the Mössbauer Effect, and discussed at the 17 August meeting of C13 in Trieste. IBAME has been an Associated Organisation of IUPAC for many decades, and based on its positive experience with IUPAC, IBAME has now asked for establishing a similar link to IUPAP. Indeed, Mössbauer spectroscopy is a powerful interdisciplinary method widely used in many areas of physics and chemistry as well as in materials science, life sciences, geosciences, archaeology, etc. Therefore, to support its networking activities in physics, IBAME definitely needs a link to IUPAP.

Nevertheless, there exist numerous similar organisations that may be potential candidates for becoming an IUPAP Associated Organisation, with a few incidental examples including:

- International Liquid Crystal Society
- International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE)
- International Union of Crystallography (IUCR)
- International XAFS Society (IXS)
- Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS)
- Neutron Scattering Society of America
- European Neutron Scattering Association (ENSA)
- AMPERE (Atomes et Molécules Par Études Radio-Électriques)
- European Federation of EPR Groups (EFEPR)
- European Forum for Magnetic Resonance in Research and Clinical Application (EMRF)
- International Association of Physics Students
- International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI).

C13 suggests that, once the category of the IUPAP Associated Organisation will have been established, IUPAP becomes proactive to attract as many organisations as possible to this new kind of partnership.

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