

**IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting
Restaurant Angiol d'Or, Parma, Italy, October 11, 2004**

Mehul Motani

Attendees: John Anderson, Jean-Claude Bellifore, Guiseppe Caire, Thomas Cover, Dave Forney, Marc Fossorier, Tom Fuja, Tor Helleseth, Johannes Huber, Hideki Imai, Torleiv Kløve, Ryuji Kohno, Steven W. McLaughlin, Mehul Motani, Vincent Poor, Shlomo Shamai, Han Vinck.

The meeting was called to order at 18:30 by Society President Hideki Imai. The members of the Board were welcomed and introduced themselves.

1. The agenda was approved and distributed.
2. The action items from the previous Board meeting at ISIT in Chicago on June 27, 2005 were reviewed.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with minor amendments.
4. The President presented his report and miscellaneous announcements.

It was announced that Alan Glavieux and Jack Van Lint have passed away.

It was mentioned that the tradition of mailing 20 copies of the Transactions to Moscow (the Institute for Information Transmission) will continue with the package addressed to Prof. V.V. Prelov instead of Dr. Mark Pinsker, who passed away last December.

It was reported that Marc Fossorier will take over the position of conference coordinator from Bixio Rimoldi, who will assume the position of the 2nd Vice President next year.

The President presented a summary of IEEE TAB meeting discussions.

5. Marc Fossorier discussed matters related to Symposia and Workshops.
 - (a) ISIT 2004, Chicago: It was reported that there were over 800 participants from 37 countries. There were 949 submissions and 570 accepted papers. There were a few visa problems. The conference ended with a 70K surplus.
 - (b) ITW 2004, San Antonio: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly.
 - (c) ISIT 2005, Adelaide: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly. The technical program committee will meet at CISS in March 2005. The committee is working to finalize the local arrangements.

The conference organizers presented a proposal to the Board regarding the publications for ISIT 2005. Specifically, the organizers proposed to publish an abstract book together with a CD-ROM of the 5 page papers. This is in contrast to previous ISIT, where a volume (or two volumes) of one page paper abstracts were published. Discussion on the matter followed.

The Board voted in favor of the proposal.

- (d) ITW 2005, New Zealand: It was reported that the web site for the workshop was up and ready and that the Call For Papers was out.
- (e) ITW 2005, Japan: It was reported that the dates for the workshop had been chosen as 16-19 October 2005. The workshop will focus on developments at the boundary of information theory and information security.
- (f) HISC 2005, Hawaii: It was reported that the Call For Papers was out. The Board unanimously approved co-sponsorship of HISC 2005, which is a joint conference if IEICE and SITA. By technically co-sponsoring the conference, the Society hopes to promote interaction with SITA.
- (g) ISIT 2007: There were two proposals presented to the Board for hosting ISIT 2007, one from Norway and one from France. The Norwegian proposal was for the beginning of July 2007 in Bergen, Norway. The French proposal was for end of June 2007 in Nice, France. Both proposal were well planned and it was agreed that either site would be appropriate. There was much Q & A and discussion of both proposals.

The Board voted in favor of the proposal from France.

- (h) ISIT 2006, Seattle: There was nothing to report.
6. Marc Fossorier presented the Treasurer's report. The Society's net worth as of September 2004 was reviewed. There was nothing new to report regarding the finance activities of the Society conferences and workshops.
 7. The IT Transactions Editor-in-Chief gave an update on the Society Transactions. He noted that web based submissions were running smoothly with the Pareja system. The EIC reviewed the mail dates, page counts, and page budgets of the Transactions, noting that the annual volume was increasing with a 28% increase projected in 2004. The EIC pointed out a Joint special issue of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory and the IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking on the topic of Networking and Information Theory. It was noted that submission for the special issue will be through Pareja.

It was announced that Lynn Stetson has been appointed the Editorial Assistant for the Transactions, replacing Katherine Perry.

It was announced that, effective October 1, 2004, Gerhard Kramer would assume the role of Publications Editor for the Transactions, replacing Bruce Moison.

The EIC submitted three new associate editor appointments for Board approval: Eiji Okamoto (Tsukuba University) for Complexity and Cryptography), Michelle Effros (Caltech) for Source Coding, and Yossef Steinberg (Technion) for Shannon Theory.

The Board unanimously approved all three AE appointments.
 8. The report of the Society Publications committee was then discussed. The main point of discussion was the open meeting on IT Society Publications that was held at ISIT in Chicago. Overall, it was concluded that the open meeting was a useful way for members to give feedback and there will be another open meeting next year.

→**Action Item** The Board requested John Anderson to call for an open meeting next year.

9. The ad-hoc committee to study ArXiv then presented its report. The committee, chaired by Dave Forney, comprises Ralf Koetter, Vince Poor, Alex Vardy, and Han Vinck. The committee recommends that the Society endorse and actively promote the publication of pre-prints on the ArXiv server at www.arxiv.org. The following six recommendations were made:

- (a) A series of promotional articles in the IT Newsletter.
- (b) Demonstrations, literature and advocacy at IT workshops and symposia.
- (c) Work with ArXiv moderators to create interest groups and mailing lists.
- (d) Ask key IT members, such as BoG members and Associate Editors, to post all of their personal current preprints on ArXiv.
- (e) Ask IT authors who have posted papers in other categories to cross-list them on cs.it/math.it.
- (f) Suggest (but not require) that authors post preprints on ArXiv when they submit papers to the IT Transactions or to IT conferences.

The Board unanimously approved the six recommendations.

10. Steven McLaughlin then presented the Awards committee report.
 - (a) Regarding the 2004 IT Society Best Paper Award, the rationale behind shortlisting three top papers and making one recommendation was discussed. The final vote for the Best Paper award will take place via email shortly after the present Board meeting.
 - (b) Regarding the competition for the best PhD dissertation award, it was noted that there was not much interest in the idea and it has been put aside for the time being.
11. Steven McLaughlin then discussed several membership development proposals drawn up by David L. Neuhoff. The recommendations focused on how to increase participation in the Society in the near term and how to increase membership in the long term. These recommendations were briefly discussed and will be considered in more detail at the next Board meeting.

→**Action Item** The Board requests that these membership development proposals be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

12. Cooperation of SITA (Society of Information Theory and its Applications in Japan) and other sister societies was then discussed. It was suggested that the Society appoint Ryuji Kohno as an official liaison for SITA and other sister societies.

The Board unanimously approved this appointment.

→**Action Item** The Board requests Ryuji Kohno to report on progress at the next Board meeting.

13. New Business

- (a) The Board unanimously approved the purchase of the itsoc.org domain name for the Society webpages.
- (b) The Board thanks Hideki Imai for his outstanding service as Society President.
- (c) The Board thanks Tom Fuja for his long-standing service to the Society and to the information theory community.

14. It was announced that the first 2005 Board meeting will be held in conjunction with CISS in March 2005 in Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. The second 2005 Board meeting will be held at ISIT in September 2005 in Adelaide, Australia.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 21:00.