

Greetings,

It seems so long ago that I attended an organizational meeting for a US group within IFToMM during the ASME Mechanisms Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in the autumn of 1968. That was my first formal introduction to IFToMM. Several months later I attended the IFToMM World Congress in Zakopane, Poland. These two events led to a series of close friendships with colleagues from around the world. It is these friendships that stand out in my mind as the enduring legacy and achievements of IFToMM.

The connection between colleagues is the real gift of an international professional organization such as IFToMM. When I think back it is the people with names like Besonov, Artobolevsky, Kobrinsky, Maunder, Bianchi, Konstantinov, Morecki, Oderfeld, Parshevsky, Pantelic, Rao that were brought into my life by IFToMM, and who formed the core of my early professional memories. More than half of these people are no longer living, and it has been too long since I met with any of the others. Yet they continue to be part of my professional and personal fabric. These relationships have transcended the vicissitudes of political arrangements and antagonisms between nations. It is through these friendships that I personally find some hope for international fellowship and good will in a cruel and difficult world.

As the years have passed I have formed close professional relationships and friendships with newer generations of colleagues within IFToMM. Many of these relationships are as strong and meaningful as the original connections, and serve to further fill-in my being and professional identity.

My personal life's journey has, in the last decade, moved my work into a new sphere, one we call "design thinking." This work has taken me away from IFToMM, into a parallel but not closely related path. So, I especially welcome this invitation from my friend Marco to write to you. Mainly it affords me time to pause and think over the multitude of memories I have from my many years within the IFToMM sphere. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities of fellowship and friendship I have had through IFToMM. I wish you all are able to find the rewards that association with IFToMM is able to offer that both facilitates and transcends your specific technical interest.

I wish all of you and IFToMM all the best,

Bernie Roth