



International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science

PRESIDENT

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To IFToMM founding Fathers:

Prof. Erskine F.R. Crossley (USA) his mail address

Prof. Jan Oderfeld (Poland) via kkedzior@meil.pw.edu.pl

Prof. Jammi S. Rao (India) js.rao@altair.com

Prof. Leonard Maunder (UK) leonard.maunder@newcastle.ac.uk

To Past IFToMM Presidents:

Prof. Bernard Roth (USA) broth@stanford.edu

Prof. Jorge Angeles (Canada) angeles@cim.mcgill.ca

Prof. Kenneth Waldron (USA) kwaldron@stanford.edu

Dear IFToMM Founding Fathers,

As you may know, this year is the 40-th year anniversary for the activity of IFToMM since its foundation in 1969 thanks to you. For your memory, please find enclosed a copy of the signed foundation act. Unfortunately we have not yet found the original and in the IFToMM archive we have only a copy of it. We think that having a good documented memory will give a strong identity to IFToMM community. Thus, I take this opportunity to ask you if you still have worth-full documents of early days of IFToMM and/or the time preparing for it that you will like to be preserved for future memory. In the case please send me the material. I still remember when as just appointed Chair of PC for history of MMS I met prof Teun Koetsier, the previous Chair, who in Amsterdam in a meeting on the street under the rain gave me the bag of prof Jack Phillips with some historical documents (letters, photos, reports, that now are well stored in the IFToMM Archive) that he received from prof Elizabeth Filemon as the IFToMM Archive. And I was delighted in experiencing the feeling of challenge that you lived in those days, while I was reading that material.

During the past 40 years IFToMM has become a reality with worldwide significance and influence in the community of mechanical engineering and your vision of those early days are still of current interest and challenge as the mission of IFToMM in promoting both the development of Mechanism and Machine Science and in facilitating collaboration among colleagues from different countries. I tried to express this vision in some articles and two of them are enclosed for your convenience and for asking your further suggestions.

As current President, I was thinking to organize a celebration ceremony for the 40-th year anniversary of IFToMM with a great participation of past and present IFToMM officers. But, after asking, I have realized that in these days it is extremely difficult to have people from all around the world only for such a celebration. Nevertheless, in agreement with members of the Executive Council, we shall have a celebration during the 2009 meeting of the Executive Council in Queretaro, Mexico, on 24 and 25 June 2009. In that occasion I will like to report your thoughts as IFToMM founding fathers from your past experience of IFToMM but also with an eye to the future. Thus, feel free to send me a letter or even a video recorded speech for the whole IFToMM community. After having reported it at the EC meeting, I shall ask to post it in the IFToMM announcements in the IFToMM webpage. Indeed, would be interesting to hear/read your memory of those early days of IFToMM and any work you will like to prepare on your IFToMM experience will be very welcomed for a storage in the IFToMM archive.

On behalf of all IFToMMists, and particularly of IFToMM officers, I will like to express you the gratitude of your act in 1969 and the proud to have followed your vision in those first 40 years of IFToMM for the benefit of the Science and Society.

Sincerely Yours

prof. Marco Ceccarelli
President of IFToMM (2008-2011)

Cassino, 4 February 2009
www.iftomm.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Signed Foundation Act of IFTOMM (copy stored at IFTOMM Archive at CSIM in Udine, Italy)

We, the undersigned chief delegates at the Inaugural Assembly of the International Federation for the Theory of Machines and Mechanisms (IFTOMM) here at Zakopane Poland on 27th September 1969, declare that we have founded the above-mentioned Federation and that we have adopted its Constitution which is attached hereto and decided to the following categories (see Article 8.4 of the Constitution).

Territory	Chief delegate	Proposed Category	Signature
Australia	JACK PHILLIPS	IV *	<i>Jack Phillips</i>
Bulgaria	George Rusanov	IV *	<i>George Rusanov</i>
German Democratic Republic *	Wolfgang Rössner	III *	<i>Wolfgang Rössner</i>
German Federal Republic *	Werner Thomas	III *	<i>Werner Thomas</i>
Hungary *	ZENÓ TERPLAN	IV +	<i>Zenó Terplan</i>
India *	J. S. RAO	V *	<i>J. S. Rao</i>
Italy *	GIOVANNI BIANCHI	IV *	<i>Giovanni Bianchi</i>
Poland	Adam Morochi	IV *	<i>Adam Morochi</i>
Rumania	Nicolae I. Maroiescu	IV ⊗	<i>Nicolae I. Maroiescu</i>
United Kingdom *	D. M. MUSTER	III *	<i>D. M. Muster</i>
U.S.A.	DOUGLAS MUSTER	I	<i>Douglas Muster</i>
U.S.S.R.	<i>Il'frits</i>	I	<i>Il'frits</i>
Yougoslavia	ILIC BRANISLAV	IV ⊗	<i>Il'frits</i>

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A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY OF IFTOMM in the IFTOMM Webpage

IFTOMM was founded in 1969 and today is active a third generation of IFTOMMists, who can be named as those working within the IFTOMM community. Knowing the History of IFTOMM and how we arrived at today's modus operandi can give a greater awareness of community identity and significance.

IFTOMM was founded as the International Federation for the Theory of Mechanisms and Machines in Zakopane, Poland on September 29, 1969 during the Second World Congress on TMM (Theory of Mechanisms and Machines). The main promoters of the IFTOMM World Federation were Academician Ivan I. Artobolevski (USSR) and Prof. Erskine F.R. Crossley (USA), whose principal aim was to bypass the obstacles of the time of the Cold War in developing international collaboration in TMM science for the benefit of the world society. IFTOMM started as a family of TMM scientists among whom we may identify the IFTOMM founding fathers, who signed or contributed to the foundation act with the initial 13 Member Organizations, in the persons: Academician Ivan I. Artobolevski (USSR), Prof. Erskine F.R. Crossley (USA), Prof. Michael S. Konstantinov (Bulgaria), Dr. Werner Thomas (GFR), Prof. B.M. Belgumkar (India), Prof. Kenneth H. Hunt (Australia), Prof. J. Oderfeld (Poland), Prof. Jack Phillips (Australia), Prof. George Rusanov (Bulgaria), Prof. Wolfgang Rössner (GDR), Prof. Zènò Terplàn (Hungary), Prof. Jammi S. Rao (India), Prof. Giovanni Bianchi (Italy), Prof. Adam Morecki (Poland), Nicolae I. Manolescu (Rumania), Leonard Maunder (UK), Douglas Muster (USA), Ilic Branisky (Yugoslavia).

The foundation of IFTOMM was the result of an intense activity for stimulating and promoting international collaboration, more than had been done previously, and the process started in the late 1950s', as documented by several letters that are stored in the IFTOMM Archive.

A first World Congress was held in 1965 in Varna, Bulgaria during which the foundation of IFTOMM was planned as later it was agreed during the Second World Congress on TMM in Zakopane, Poland. The Congress series was immediately recognized as the IFTOMM World Congress and today in 2007 we are celebrating the 12th event with a participation of 48 Member Organizations.

The IFTOMM community has grown continually over time and the TMM has evolved to encompass large engineering science, including even new disciplines. This led in the year 2000 to an update of the name of the IFTOMM Federation as IFTOMM International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science and a change of the name of TMM to MMS (Mechanism and Machine Science), in order to emphasize the modernity and broader mission of the IFTOMM community.

IFTOMM activity has grown in many aspects, as for example concerning the number of member organizations (from the 13 founder members to the current 48 members), the size and scale of conference events (with many other conferences, even on specific topics, at national and international levels, in addition to the MMS World Congress), and the number and focus of technical committees working on specific discipline areas of MMS (currently 13, with 2 more just established).

The IFTOMM community evolved in character from that of a family of a few beginners and founders into a scientific worldwide community through the following generations:

- 1950's -'79 First generation: founding fathers and their friendly colleagues up to the 4-th IFTOMM World Congress in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1975 with prof Maunder as Congress Chair
- 1980-95 Second Generation: students and people educated by founding fathers and their friendly colleagues; up to the 9-th World Congress in Milan in 1995 with prof Rovetta as Congress Chair
- 1996-today Third Generation: educated people in the frame of IFTOMM and within IFTOMM activity with 48 organizations as IFTOMM members.

IFTOMM officers (who are the Chairs of IFTOMM Member Organizations, the Chairs of TCs and PCs, and the members of the Executive Council) have contributed and still contribute as leaders to the mission of IFTOMM, which is stated in the 1-st article of the Constitution as 'The mission of IFTOMM is the promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science'. A complete list of IFTOMM officers over time is available in the Proceedings of the second International Symposium on History of Machines and Mechanisms HMM2004 that has been published by Kluwer.

In particular, Presidents and Secretaries General have had significant roles in guiding the growth and success of IFTOMM. Their personalities are also representative of the IFTOMM community in terms of reputation and visibility worldwide. The Presidents were Ivan I. Artobolevskii (USSR), Leonard Maunder (United Kingdom), Bernard Roth (USA), Giovanni Bianchi (Italy), Adam Morecki (Poland), Jorge Angeles (Canada), Kenneth J. Waldron (USA). The Secretaries General were M.S. Konstantinov (Bulgaria), Emil Stanchev (Bulgaria), Adam Morecki (Poland), Adam Morecki (Poland), Elizabeth Filemon (Hungary), L. Pust (CSSR), Tatu Leinonen (Finland),

More information on IFTOMM and its activity can be found in the website: <http://www.iftomm.org>.

Details of the History of IFTOMM can be found in the first Chapter of Proceedings of the first International Symposium on History of Machines and Mechanisms HMM2000 (that has been published by Kluwer) in which all the past IFTOMM Presidents have outlined their historical perspective of IFTOMM in contributed papers with references.

Marco Ceccarelli

IFTOMM Secretary General (2004-2007)

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From TMM to MMS: a Vision of IFToMM

TMM (Theory of Machines and Mechanisms) can be considered established as a modern discipline with the foundation of Ecole Polytechnique in Paris in 1794, as Gaspard Monge (1746-1818) proposed to include lectures on mechanism analysis in the course of Descriptive Geometry. Although he never gave those classes, he inspired and supervised to some extent the work of his pupils, who published the milestone works that can be considered the beginning of TMM: Lanz J.M. and Betancourt A. , 1808, "Essai sur la composition des machines", Paris. Hachette J.N.P. , 1811, "Traité élémentaire des machines", Paris. In 1834 André Marie Ampère (1775-1836) coined the word Kinematics to address the discipline treating the motion of rigid bodies without considering the actions that cause it. Soon everywhere in Europe the early established Schools of Engineering included courses on TMM and/or Kinematics of Mechanisms in the engineering curriculum. Consequently, in the second half of XIXth century the so-called Golden Age of TMM has been experienced with a considerable evolution of TMM from descriptive-geometrical approaches to rigorous formulations of the acquired knowledge on Kinematics of mechanisms, giving a great success in the application of mechanism design in all aspects of Engineering. Thus, at the end of XIXth century, TMM has been well established in the Industrialized World, and several recognized personalities published fundamental works, on which the modern TMM is based, as for example Robert Willis in 1841, Carlo Giulio in 1846, Haton de la Goullepierre in 1864, Franz Reuleaux in 1875, Ludwig Burmester in 1888, Lorenzo Allievi in 1895, and Pafnutii L'vovich Chebyshev in 1899, to cite some. In the first half of XXth century Mechanical Engineering showed impressive results in advancing the state of Technology, and everywhere in the Schools of Engineering TMM was taught as a fundamental and applied discipline. The world-wide interest on TMM led also to an internationalizing process of the field that needed more and more exchange of experience and knowledge among researchers around the world. The modern significance of TMM found its expression at the international institutional level with the foundation of the International Federation for the Theory of Machines and Mechanisms (IFToMM) in 1969, Fig.1. The history of IFToMM has been outlined by the past IFToMM Presidents themselves in Chapter 2 of the Proceedings of HMM2000 -International Symposium on History of Machines and Mechanisms (published by Kluwer).



Fig.1 A historical moment of the foundation of IFToMM, the International Federation for the Theory of Machines and Mechanisms, in Zakopane (Poland) on 27 September 1969, (Courtesy of the IFToMM Archives) in which one can recognize: 1- prof. Ivan Ivanovich Artobolevskii (USSR); 2-prof. Adam Morecki (Poland); 5- prof. Nicolae I. Manolescu (Romania); 6-prof. Erskine F. Crossley (USA); 7- prof. Giovanni Bianchi (Italy); 8-prof. Aron E. Kobrinskii (USSR); 9- prof. Werner Thomas (USA); 10- prof. Jan Oderfeld (Poland).

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The advent of computers pushed great changes in Engineering by enabling the engineers to work with numerical simulations, thereby overcoming the traditional geometric methods and even experimental activity. Thus, starting from the 1960's TMM lost somehow the fundamental content of Theory that can be understood as both theoretical investigation and experimental practice of mechanisms (for more details on the meaning of TMM see the article "On the meaning of TMM over time" in the 1999 Bulletin IFTOMM Newsletter, Vol.8. No.1). Today most of the work and research on mechanisms is carried out through the use of computer-oriented approaches, even in the renewed experimental studies. In addition, in the last decades new fields of expertise and applications have enlarged considerably the field of TMM by including other engineering aspects that involve not only mechanisms, so that recently the IFTOMM Community felt the need to even up-date the name of the discipline. After a long discussion, the term MMS (Machine and Mechanism Science) was accepted in order to give a wide meaning of the wideness that today's mechanisms discipline has reached. Thus, in 2000 even IFTOMM Federation was renamed as IFTOMM, the International Federation for the Promotion of Research and Development Activities in Mechanism and Machine Science, while keeping its historical identity with the IFTOMM name. At the beginning of the third millennium IFTOMM can be presented as a fundamental institution for the future success of MMS all around the world. This is because IFTOMM offers a common framework for the many aspects of MMS as innovation, research, teaching, cooperation, etc., since it is the most important frame of reference and source of activity information in the field of MMS at large and in specific subjects. But, facing the needs and requirements of a successful future, the IFTOMM community should be able to re-shape some of its fundamental behavior, scope and organization. IFTOMM was established as an international institution mainly to link TMM activities in Eastern and Western countries with the aim of exchanging experiences and promoting collaboration among region Societies or Associations. Not only will the collaboration among region entities (that are the members of IFTOMM) be fundamental for the future success of IFTOMM, but the activity of individuals of the IFTOMM Community will be necessary to re-establish the importance of the field and the community yet. This means a different vision of IFTOMM that will act on individuals base. Therefore, IFTOMM should be re-shaped to give more flexibility and acceptance to the activity of individuals, since the over-nationality process will vanish the differences from country to country, from national society to national society, as already we have started to experience. Personally I think that the main changes that IFTOMM will experience lie in the following, always preserving the historical identity of IFTOMM, with innovative approaches:

-to facilitate the circulation and enlargement of IFTOMM activities;

-to give and promote the activity of individuals of the IFTOMM community. The above-mentioned features in a more flexible organization may also call for to a higher efficiency that will require greater resources in terms of both financial and technical means. In particular, IFTOMM should be organized as a nonprofit organization yet, but able to find the necessary funds to promote more and more activities that should be even the source of financial revenue. This aspect will require a stronger promotion activity that should be carried out by each individual in the IFTOMM community. Many other disciplines and related international Societies have been established recently, and even more organizations will be founded in the future, so that IFTOMM should be able to promote itself, since the time that everyone recognizes the importance of MMS and IFTOMM is already over because of the great competition even among the various associations. Another relevant change to be addressed is the publication and subscription of the Mechanism and Machine Theory (MMT), the official IFTOMM Journal. The goal of the IFTOMM journal should be a world-wide circulation of the works done by the IFTOMM community. Thus, more and more pages, more and more issues, quicker and quicker reviews, and rapid publication of accepted papers are needed. In addition, electronic publications should be started, like the promising Electronic Journal on Computational Kinematics (EJCK). But, primarily the subscription rule should be changed in the sense that subscription of individuals should be accepted and encouraged without requiring a very expensive institutional subscription. A wide circulation of the journal can be achieved when individuals can subscribe to MMT. In addition, similarly to other engineers organizations, IFTOMM should draw financial benefit from the subscription revenue yet. A fundamental evolution of IFTOMM behavior can be recognized in a more active participation of individuals, mainly but not restricted to the established Commissions and Committees. Today most of the work is on charge of the Chairs of the Technical Committees and Permanent Commissions (TCs and PCs). In the future TCs and PCs will work with many members, who are representatives of all the IFTOMM members, so that the TCs and PCs will be active at the international but also at the national/regional levels. Summarizing, the future success of MMS as a Science will require to open the doors to the scientific community at large, but individuals of the IFTOMM community should be the cornerstones of a great building. Thus, MMS and particularly the IFTOMM community will enhance successfully Technology like in the past and will serve the Society by achieving a better quality of the environment and human life.

Cassino June 2001

Prof. Marco Ceccarelli, Chairman of IFTOMM Commission for History of MMS

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