

## IFTToMM UK MEMBERS MEETING

### Minute of the meeting held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 10:00-17:00

10:00-12:00	Court Room, University of Aberdeen
13:00-14:00	Fraser Noble 2 , University of Aberdeen
14:30-17:00	Committee Room 2, University of Aberdeen

#### Present:

Prof M Wiercigroch, Aberdeen (Convenor)  
 Dr Majid Aleyaasin, Aberdeen  
 Dr David Branson, Nottigham  
 Prof Jian Dai, KC London  
 Dr James Ing, Aberdeen (Clark)  
 Dr Xianmen Kong, H-W Edinburgh  
 Dr Yang Liu, RGU Aberdeen  
 Prof Yoshihiko Nakamura, Tokyo (Observer)  
 Dr Piotr Omenzeter, Aberdeen  
 Prof Ekaterina Pavlovskaja, Aberdeen  
 Dr Yeping Xiong, Southampton  
 Dr Daniil Yourchenko, H-W Edinburgh

#### Apologies:

Prof Semus Garvey, Nottingham  
 Dr John Selig, LSBU London  
 Dr Daizong Su, NTU Nottingham  
 Prof Geof Tomlinson, Sheffield

#### 1. Welcome

The Convenor opened the meeting welcoming all delegates and the Observer, the IFTToMM Presidents, Professor Yoshihiko Nakamura. He emphasised the importance of this meeting and its main aim to restore activities of the IFTToMM UK. With the agreement of the IFTToMM President, he offered the IFTToMM UK membership to all delegates, who all accepted. He urged to time efficient as the Agenda for the meeting (see Appendix) was challenging.

#### 2. Technical Presentations

The aim of this session was to provide a technical overview of research activities carried out by the IFTToMM UK members. Specifically, Dr Yeping Xiong of Southampton University, Dr James Ing of Aberdeen University, Dr Xianwen Kong of Heriott-Watt University and Dr Yang Liu of the Robert Gordon University gave their presentations. Each presentation has attracted a good number of questions. There was one more presentation planed by Prof M Wiercigroch, but it was decided to postpone to the afternoon session.

This part of the meeting was concluded by a buffet lunch during which delegates had numerous discussions focussed on the question how restart the IFTToMM UK activities.

#### 3. Lecture by the IFTToMM President, Prof Y Nakamura

The IFTToMM President gave a lecture on "Humanoid Robot from/to Human Modeling", which was attended by the delegates and academic staff and PhD students from the University of Aberdeen. The lecture probed some philosophical issues of humanity and was well received.

#### 4. The Presidential Address

Prof Nakamura gave a brief introduction to the IFTToMM by explaining its mission and its structure. He referred to its origins mentioning that the IFTToMM UK was one of the IFTToMM founders. He emphasised the importance of the Member Organizations, which strength is vital for the IFTToMM health and success. Then the President has stated that for the last few years the IFTToMM UK had been not active, which resulted in a lack of IFTToMM related activities and the Member Organization being in arrears. He informed the delegates that the current chair Dr Robert Bicker of Newcastle University stepped down and there is an urgent need to elect a new strong chair of the IFTToMM UK, which was the main point of the this meeting.

Dr Branson speaking on behalf of Prof S Garvey of Nottingham University, who could not attend the meeting, asked whether it would be possible to get a period of the subscription holidays until the IFTToMM UK regains its strength. Prof Nakamura explained that the most important action now is to restart and reinvigorate the National Organization activities and then an appropriate solution can be devised to solve the arrears problem.

## **5. Reports from the IFTToMM UK Technical Committees**

There three report from the activities within the UK around the Technical Committees for Kinematics, Robotics and Vibrations. The presentations were delivered by Prof J Dai, Dr X and Prof M Wiercigroch. In all three talks accounts of the past and current IFTToMM activities were given. Prof Dai noted that only TC Vibrations chaired by Prof Wiercigroch has vibrant IFTToMM activities and the other committees should work closely with the TC Vibrations. This suggestion was supported by the delegates.

## **6. Discussion and Election of the IFTToMM UK Chair**

The discussion was chaired by Dr Y Xiong of Southampton University, who asked the delegates to raise points. Prof Dai followed Dr Brandson's question with regards to the Member Organization annual fees and possible ways of raising funds. Prof Nakamura explained two major ways how the MOs pay their fees, namely, by being aligned to a large societies (US model, where ASME Design Division pays the annual subscription) or by having individual subscription fees within the Member Organization (Japanese model). Prof Wiercigroch commented that raising funds to cover subscription is relatively easy task when compare to rebuilding the activities. He suggested that it is better to have individual subscription fees as this could indicate the level of interest in the IFTToMM activities and also gives a sense of ownership. An idea was put forward that establishing a health suite of IFTToMM conferences should put the Member Organisation in a good position including finances.

Prof Dai mentioned that he had some talks with IMechE in London with regards to a potential collaboration with the IFTToMM UK. This matter was discussed by e-mails between him, Prof Garvey and Prof Wiercigroch. A potential collaboration was welcomed by delegates and Prof Wiercigroch reinforced this point saying that the IFTToMM UK needs to collaborate with all relevant organisations, however it should retain its independence and benefit from its global reach.

The discussion was drawn to close and Dr Xiong was proceeded to the last item of the agenda - the election of the new IFTToMM Chair. She delighted to inform the delegates that Prof Wiercigroch agreed to be put forward as a candidate for the IFTToMM UK Chair. She presented the candidate academic profile, his achievement and his strong commitment to the IFTToMM. Dr Branson asked whether Prof Wiercigroch was only candidate, which was confirmed by Dr Xiong.

Next, Dr Xiong carried out election of the new IFTToMM UK chair asking delegates to raise hands who is 'For' and all 10 eligible votes were given 'Yes' to elect Prof Wiercigroch. Then she announced that Prof Marian Wiercigroch was dully elected as the Chair of the IFTToMM UK.

The Chair Elect has accepted the post and gave a short speech asking Prof Jian Dai to be Vice-Chair and Dr Yeping Xiong to be Treasurer/Secretary. Both accepted and this part of the meeting was closed.

## **7. Date of the Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place by the end of the year. It should be organised to maximise the number of participants.

**Action: IFTToMM UK Chair Elect**