

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS
International Committee Meeting: 11 February 2009
Minutes

[IC 16 Minutes - PDF DOWNLOAD](#)

1. International Committee Meeting Number IC 16

President Blocka called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed those present. The meeting began with brief self-introductions of those in attendance.

President Blocka explained that this wonderful venue in Thailand was selected for several reasons: to move beyond the traditional European roots of ISPO, to support the many important activities in this region and in the country, and to establish the precedent to host future IC meetings at different worldwide venues.

1.1. Attendance

This meeting was attended, in whole or in part, by the following persons:

Elected Members of Executive Board [* = voting member]

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| *Dan Blocka (President) | Canada |
| *Jan Geertzen (President-Elect) | Netherlands |
| *John Fisk (Vice-President) | USA |
| *Carolina Schiappacasse (Vice-President) | Argentina |
| *Margaret Hodge (Member) | Australia |
| *Arthur Mak (Member) | Hong Kong China |
| *Heinz Trebbin (Member) | Germany |
| *Dirk van Kuppevelt (Member) | Netherlands |
| Mads Harbo (Honorary Treasurer = non-voting) | Denmark |
| John W. Michael (Honorary Secretary = non-voting) | USA |

Invited Guests

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Niels Petersen | Manager, ISPO Secretariat CPH |
| Rajiv Hanspal | Representative of Protocol Committee |

National Representatives

Please refer to the list in Section 4 below for a complete list of national attendees.

1.2. Minutes from prior meeting [Michael]

The minutes from the prior meeting were approved as posted on the ISPO web site. [LINK](#)

2. Matters Arising

Non matters arising were identified by those present.

3. President's Report [LINK](#)

3.1 State of the Society

President Blocka advised that he is well pleased with the present State of the Society, which is perhaps best summarized by the fact that we have the largest number of paid members in the history of the Society. Furthermore, we have 10 new National Member Societies in the stage of formation. In his travels to various NMS thus far in this triennium, Dan is pleased to see so many active local and regional activities for our membership. He is focused on building stronger partnerships and collaborations.

3.2 Major Initiatives

Transparency is one major focus of this Board, and an ongoing responsibility. Timely posting of the minutes on the ISPO web site is one tangible illustration of this effort. Financial accountability is another focus as we try to find the best balance between expenses and activities. We are using Internet technology to both reduce costs and be more responsive to member needs. The new monthly eMeetings by the Board, with some members logging on at 0500 while others are logged on at 2200 local time, are a good illustration. Communication is another critical priority, with the new eNewsletter as one example of those results. The Strategic Planning Meeting held in El Salvador is an important investment in ISPO's future, providing a clear direction and strategic goals to advance the Society. The Board is also investigating the potential role of A Management Companies to help ISPO accomplish goals more effectively. In summary, this has been 18 months of intense activity to strengthen and further the mission of our society.

3.3 President's Activities [LINK](#)

President Blocka visually summarized his activities with a multimedia presentation that will be posted on YouTube for viewing by all interested parties.

4. National Member Society Reports

Each NMS present briefly summarized their activities thus far in the triennium. The general theme that emerged was that while many NMS face strong competition from potential member's primary affiliation societies, those present

are organizing and increasing array of local and regional multidisciplinary activities. Those presentations can be linked from the list of attendees below, which is in reversed alphabetical order as were the presentations - further reflecting President Blocka's commitment to change the traditional order of things!

| NMS/Country | Person | Written Report | PowerPoint Summary |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| United States | Rob Kistenberg | | <u>LINK</u> |
| UK | Paul Charlton | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| Turkey | Serap Alsancak | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| Slovenia | Helena Burger | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| Pakistan | Dr. Bakht Sarwar | | |
| Netherlands | Harmen van der Linde | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| Korea | Bong-ok Kim | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| Jordan | Raid Alkhattab | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Japan | Mr. Mitsuhiro Uchida | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| Japan | Dr. Takaaki Chin | | |
| India | Vinod Bhanti | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Hong Kong | Kwan Hung-hei | | <u>LINK</u> |
| Czech Republic | Jiri Rosicky | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| China | Bao Ping | | <u>LINK</u> |
| China | Bian Weiguo | | |
| China | Li Luwan | | |
| Canada | Ed Lemaire | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Canada | Steven Hale | | <u>LINK</u> |
| Cambodia | Sisary Kheng | | |
| Bosnia/Herzogovinia | Wm. C. Neumann | | <u>LINK</u> |
| Australia | Friedbert Kohler | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |
| Argentina | Maria Alicia Paleo | | <u>LINK</u> |

In addition, reports were submitted by several additional NMS, which can be accessed by the links on the Table below.

| NMS/Country | Written Report | PowerPoint Summary |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chile | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Chinese Taipei | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Germany | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Hungary | <u>LINK</u> | |
| New Zealand | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Panama, Dominican Republic, Mexico | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Russia | <u>LINK</u> | |
| Sweden | <u>LINK</u> | <u>LINK</u> |

5. Finance Committee [Presentation](#)

Mads Harbo presented a graphic summary of the Society finances, which are healthy at this time. We have a reasonable surplus for 2008, primarily due to increased revenues from the World Congress combined with reduced costs for Board meetings. Mads then provided a breakdown by percentages and comparison by years of key functions.

6. Nominations Committee [Presentation](#)

John Michael presented the List of Nominees for the 2010-2013 to the IC, noting that there are no recommendations for President-Elect or Vice President. This has occurred because the Constitutional Amendment passed by the IC in Vancouver limiting Board members to two terms prevents any of the experienced Board members from serving in the coming triennium.

CONSTITUTION NOTES & PRESENTATION:

[Proposed Constitution](#)

[Notes to Proposed Constitution](#)

[Powerpoint Presentation - Hanspal](#)

7. Education Committee [Report](#)

[Presentation](#)

Margaret Hodge summarized the many activities of the EC, which include many consultations and visits to P&O training programs. The list of recognized P&O schools at both Category I and Category II continues to grow. Additional initiatives include the inauguration of an online learning program. Details are found in the linked report.

8. Ad Hoc Committees

8.1. Publications [Presentation](#)

Arthur Mak summarized the activities of this committee focusing on our journal, **Prosthetics & Orthotics International**, the new eNewsletter, and the pending redevelopment of the web site. He also highlighted the new translation guidelines. Details are found in the linked report.

Wes Pryor spoke on behalf of the Web Development group on their work to develop specifications for a substantive upgrade to the ISPO web site, as summarized in the linked report. The goal is to complete a series of design specifications, develop a Request for Proposals, and have a new, vibrant web site unveiled at the Leipzig World Congress.

8.2. Membership Committee [Presentation](#)

Dirk van Kuppevelt summarized the change to a four-tiered fee structure, based on World Bank's classification of economies, which will go into effect this year. Membership exceeds 3,000, which is an all-time high. We have members across the globe in all levels of economies but the NMS are predominantly in the developed areas of the world. ISPO is interested in increasing the number of NMS and members throughout the world.

John Fisk explained that only one Short Course has been scheduled for 2008. Despite many expressions of interest, to date there has been no follow through by those sites that seemed interested previously. John invited all NMS who are interested in hosting courses contact him. Details are found in the linked report.

Jan Geertzen summarized the plans for the 2010 World Congress in Leipzig, inviting all present to attend this major event. Details can be found in the linked report.

10. **USAID Grant** [Presentation](#)

Jan Geertzen summarized the progress on the USAID Grant, which continues to run smoothly.

11. **Moderated Discussion**

The balance of the IC meeting was devoted to a moderated discussion of the proposed changes to the Constitution as well as the items that came up during to day's discussions. The Board expressed its grateful appreciation to the IC Representatives for their counsel and input on these important matters. The extensive notes taken during this session will be used to inform the revisions to the Proposed Constitution and to other Board activities for the balance of this triennium.

President Blocka adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM and thanked everyone present for their efforts on behalf of the Society.