Highlights from the history of IFAC

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Highlights from the History of IFAC

International Federation of Automatic Control

Sketches: M. Cuenod
Text: P. Eykhoff

Eindhoven, Netherlands / Spring 1986 / Vienna, Austria

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HIGHLIGHTS OF IFAC HISTORY

There is properly no history; only biography.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

There are many approaches to history, and writing on history can be done in a variety of ways. Some approaches -
- are lively, others are dull;
- emphasize facts, others explore interpretations;
- show an optimistic mood, others point to missed chances;

.......

On the history of IFAC a few contributions have been published already (1). Each reader may determine for himself/herself to which of the categories mentioned above those papers belong. Suppose the motto indicated on top is valid. Then the true IFAC history would be the biographies of the many people that have contributed so much to the foundation, to the growth, to the stabilization, and maturation of our Federation. IFAC remembers those who, unfortunately, left us too early:
Víctor Broida; Don Eckman; Eduard Gerecke; Alexander Letov;
Fred Margulies; Pawel Nowacki; Rufus Oldenburger; Georgio Quazza; Naum Rajbman; Hugo Schuck •••
IFAC remembers them with deep appreciation and gratitude. Their 'biographies' are in the hearts of many IFAC people.

Also it seems worthwhile to approach IFAC's history by looking through the eyes of Michel Cuenod, Treasurer and pillar of IFAC for so many years. Due to his passion for drawing the Congresses, the milestones of IFAC, as well as many other events have been visualized in a lively, spontaneous way. From his vast number of drawings a few have been reproduced in this booklet; - from each of the nine congresses two sketches, as well as the basic data are given.

I did not ask Michel about his ideas and feelings related to drawing; consequently the following thoughts are certainly not his responsibility.
In spite of the fact that my personal experiences along those lines are very limited indeed, the attitude of: 'Seeing

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(1)-'IFAC, from idea to birth'. R.Oldenburger.
- 'IFAC - 20 years old; 20 years young'. An anniversary publication IFAC, 1977. Also in:
- 'Impact of automatic control: present and future'.
/drawing as meditation; the Zen of seeing" (2) looks quite real to me:

Zen - the direct experience of the nucleus,
the central reality of life.
Zen - life that is conscious to be alive,
knowing that it is living.

Looked at in this way, the sketches are more than nice pictures only; they also refer to essential values that are underlying IFAC and its many activities, e.g.:
- the world-wide interaction and cooperation;
- the conviction that science and technology are truly international affairs;
- the good-fellowship and friendship that can be experienced in this international community, irrespective of race, country, ideology and faith.

Those are very essential values indeed.

I am sure that many IFAC-people share this sense of awareness and enjoy both the experiences, as well as the memories of such experiences.

It is particularly to such people this small booklet is dedicated; hopefully it may strengthen their dedication towards the challenges that are waiting still for IFAC ...

To other people these sketches are presented as nice pictures that may revive their interesting and pleasant memories ...

Pieter Eykhoff

IFAC Congresses:

1960 Moscow
1963 Basle
1966 London
1969 Warsaw
1972 Paris
1975 Boston/Cambridge
1978 Helsinki
1981 Kyoto
1984 Budapest

FIRST IFAC CONGRESS

MOSCOW

1960
June 27 - July 2

'Automatic and Remote Control'

place: University of Moscow
opened by: A.N. Kosygin,
Deputy Prime Minister of the USSR

IFAC President: H. Chestnut (1957-1958)
A.M. Letov (1958-1960)

essential numbers-
- papers presented: 285
- participants: 1500


Editor: J.F. Coales
Co-editors: J.R. Ragazzini, A.T. Fuller
SECOND
IFAC CONGRESS
BASLE

1963
August 28 - September 4

'Automatic and Remote Control'

place: Halle Mustermesse

opened by: Dr. H.P. Tschudi
           Federal Councillor of Switzerland

IFAC President: E. Gerecke

essential numbers-

- papers presented: 159 + 12 surveys

- participants: 1500

Proceedings published by Butterworth - Oldenbourg, 2 volumes

Editor: V. Broida
Co-editors: D.H. Barlow, O. Schafer
THIRD
IFAC CONGRESS
LONDON
1966
June 20 – June 25
'Automatic and Remote Control'

place: Central Hall, Church House, Institution of Civil Engineers, all in Westminster

opened by: H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

banquet speech: Prime Minister Harold Wilson

IFAC President: J.F. Coales

essential numbers-
- papers presented: 289 + 10 surveys + 4 educat.lect.
- sessions: 49 + 4 round tables
- participants: 1800

Proceedings published by UKAC/The Institute of Mechanical Engineers, 2 volumes (6 books)

Editor: G.D.S. McLellan

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The tower of London NC 1966.
FOURTH IFAC CONGRESS

WARSAW

1969
June 16 - June 21

place: Conference Hall

opened by: P. Jaroszewicz
Deputy Prime Minister

IFAC President: P.J. Nowacki

essential numbers-
- papers presented: 303 + 10 surveys
- sessions: 50 + 11 plenary + 10 round tables
- participants: 1000

Preprints published by IFAC Secretariat, Dusseldorf, FRG
No proceedings
Warsaw 1969 -NC-
FIFTH IFAC CONGRESS

PARIS

1972
June 12 - June 16

'Cooperation for Better Efficiency,
'Theory for Practical Applications'

place: UNESCO House

opened by: M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli
Minister of Industrial Development

IFAC President: V. Broida

essential numbers-
- papers presented: 216 + 12 surveys
- sessions: 41 + 12 plenary + 8 round tables
- participants: 1300

Proceedings published by ISA, 4 volumes
L'Esplanade des Invalides

Paris 7, 1972
SIXTH
IFAC CONGRESS

BOSTON/CAMBRIDGE

1975
Augustus 24 - Augustus 30

'Control Technology in the Service of Man'

place: M.I.T. - Harvard
opened by: John T. Dunlop
US Secretary of Labor

IFAC President: J.C. Lozier

essential numbers-
- papers presented: 347 + 8 surveys
- sessions: 63 + 8 plenary + 14 round tables
- participants: 1350

Proceedings published by ISA, 4 volumes
Bâtir ou de l'aéroport  NC 1975
SEVENTH
IFAC CONGRESS

HELSINKI

1978
June 12 - June 16

'A Link between Science and Applications of Automatic Control'

place: Helsinki University of Technology, Otaniemi

opened by: Dr. U. Kekkonen
President of the Republic of Finland

IFAC President: U. Luoto

essential numbers-
- papers presented: 296
- sessions: 60 + 4 plenary + 5 case stud. + 15 round tables + 4 informal
- participants: 1000

Proceedings published by Pergamon Press, 4 volumes

Editor: A.Niemi
Associate editors: B.Wahlstrom, J.Virkkunen
Eighth IFAC Congress

Kyoto

1981
August 24 - August 28

'Control Science and Technology for the Progress of Society'

place: Kyoto International Conference Hall

opened by: Y. Hayashida, Governor of Kyoto Prefecture

IFAC President: Y. Sawaragi

essential numbers-

- papers presented: 600
- sessions: 119 + 7 plenary + 8 case stud. round tables
- participants: 1432

Proceedings published by Pergamon Press, 7 volumes

Editor: H. Akashi
The Golden Pavilion
Kyoto 1921 BC
NINTH IFAC CONGRESS

BUDAPEST

1984
July 2 - July 6

'A Bridge between Control Science and Technology'

place: Academy of Sciences;
       Intercontinental- and Forum Hotels

opened by: His Exc. G. Lazar, Chairman
           Council of Ministers of the
           Hungarian People's Republic

IFAC President: T. Vamos
Chairman IPC : J. Gertler
Chairman NOC : G. Hencsey

essential numbers-
- papers received: 1014
- papers presented: 569
- sessions: 102 + 6 plenary + 7 case stud.
            + 27 panel discuss.
- participants: 1157
- countries represented: 44

Proceedings published by Pergamon Press, 6 volumes

General editors: J. Gertler, L. Keviczky
Budapest, l'Église St Étienne  2.7.84. Pd
Budapest le château royal 2.7.84.
original edition;
limited to 250 copies.

this is copy number 240

Colophon

- the idea of such a booklet was suggested by J.G.Balchen (N);
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- the IFAC Secretariat (A) assisted in retrieving part of the data;
- the lay-out and text are by P.Eykhoff (NL);
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