



Relazione sulla partecipazione italiana alla URSI GASS 2017 Montreal, Canada, 19-26 Agosto 2017

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La GASS si è svolta a Montreal al Centro Congressi dal 18 al 26 agosto. Oltre alle sessioni tecniche in parallelo, almeno 10 ma in certi casi anche 15, ci sono state tre *General Lecture* molto interessanti e un tutorial per ogni Commissione che hanno permesso, anche ai non addetti ai lavori, di essere informati sulle problematiche più attuali. Questi sono i motivi per cui una GASS è molto interessante.

Si sono svolti inoltre business meeting di ogni Commissione e tutte le attività sono state raccolte e discusse nelle 4 riunioni del Council che sono si seguito riportate nel dettaglio.

Inoltre il mercoledì 22 agosto c'è stata una riunione delle rappresentanze nazionali dei diversi paesi per uno scambio di informazioni sulle attività URSI nazionali. Tale riunione è rendicontata in seguito.

Le idee emerse che potrebbero essere utili in Italia sono:

1. Pubblicità nelle università organizzando seminari o minicorsi di Radio Science
2. Nominare un *Ambasciatore* URSI presso Università e gruppi universitari, industrie, altri enti ricerca e associazioni (ASI, SIEm, ...)
3. Coordinamento e maggior diffusione informazioni sulla partecipazione italiana a URSI GASS e RASC
4. Coordinamento e maggior diffusione informazioni per stimolare candidature a Vice Chair, ECR, Vice President, Awards...
5. Nominare un Tesoriere che si occupi di fund raising (in particolare per borse YS)

Alla GASS sono stati sponsorizzati 100 Young Scientists di cui 6 italiani. Purtroppo il coinvolgimento dei giovani nelle attività sociali è risultato misero.

Il lunedì 20 abbiamo incontrato il Console e il Direttore dell'Istituto di Cultura Italiana che ci hanno informato sulle possibilità di progetti bilaterali e sulle attività in corso a supporto della diffusione della cultura italiana. Hanno partecipato all'incontro circa 30 delegati italiani.

Di seguito il resoconto delle riunioni del Council (a cui partecipano i rappresentanti di ogni paese membro e i Chair delle 10 Commissioni scientifiche).

E' da sottolineare, come brevemente accennato più sotto, il successo della candidatura italiana per ospitare la GASS 2020 a Roma. La nostra proposta ha avuto successo su quelle, peraltro molto agguerrite, di Sapporo, Varsavia e Singapore. Questo successo

comporterà comunque un notevole impegno di lavoro ed energie per tutta la commissione e, si spera, con il sostegno del CNR.

Council 1, Sunday Aug 20

President report:

Paul Lagasse will leave his position as Secretary General after 24 years.

URSI is now organized with annual meetings, GASS, AT, and AP RASC. No additional meetings for Officers are foreseen.

The URSI finance are good. Bulgaria and Ukraine are behind with payments. They could become associate members.

It is proposed to change the financial support to Commissions: it will be 15 keuro plus a variable part related to the number of submitted papers and the number of registered people at the 3 URSI flagship congresses

GASS is run by the local host with a return to URSI as percentage of the income. Any local organization needs to have an entity covering possible financial loss.

AT RASC is run by URSI central bureau

AP RASC was born almost independently by URSI central organization, run by each individual country hosting the meeting, now it is getting closer to the board and it is foreseen a closer coordination in the future

The Commission are asked to form a Technical Advisory Committee supporting all the activities in the organization of the annual events

Historically the Scientific Program Coordinator is the previous Chair of the LOC, since 2020 the Coordinator will be appointed by the Board and in 2020 it will be Ross Stone.

AP RASC March 9-12, 2019 in New Delhi

Individual URSI membership has been promoted

A Standing Committee on Member Committee is proposed to support the Member Committees in national activity and allowing exchange of experience, and also to stimulate new members. This will be dealt by the next Board

Election of the new Board

There is only one candidate for the President position, Prof Ando, and one for the general Secretary, Dr Van Daele. Both are approved.

Vice President elected:

Santolik, Ondrej,

Sihvola, Ari

Uslenghi, Piergiorgio L.E.

Baan, Willem

Presentation of ICSU: International Council for Science

Policy for science and science for policy

Groups 31 unions, as URSI, and 17 other interdisciplinary bodies.

The mission of ICSU is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. It works as advisor for politicians and support several multidisciplinary initiatives.

Possibly soon joining the ISSC, International Social Science Council, in Science International “the global voice for science”.

Proposal for GASS 2020:

1. Rome: Aug 29 – Sept 5
2. Sapporo, Japan: July 15-22 to avoid conflict with Tokyo Olympic games and COSPAR Aug 15-23, in Sydney. Other possible dates in Aug. The list of sponsors (150 keuro) and letter of support is IMPRESSING!
3. Varsavia, Poland, Aug 1-8. The PCO, Barcelo, is taking the full financial responsibility
4. Singapore, Sept 5-12

Comparative analysis at the next Council on Tuesday and vote on Thursday.

Council 2 Aug 22

Comparative analysis of the GASS 2020 bids

Council 3 Aug 24

Ratification of the election of Chair

All the previous Vice Chairs becomes Chairs with the exception of Comm A and K in which the previous Chairs remains, due to unavailability of the current Vice Chairs.

The elected Vice Chair and ERC are approved.

The Vice Chair of Comm A is put in question as the second candidate, from India, was only one vote behind and India is underrepresented, the Council votes to maintain the Comm A election result.

Italy has unfortunately no Commission Chair, but we have:

Commission G

Vice Chair Giorgiana De Franceschi (Italy)

Commission B

ECR Andrea Michel (Italy)

Publication:

The radio science bulletin is on the IEEEExplore since July 2017, back file from 2002. This allows increasing URSI visibility and the RSB impact factor will increase. Also Radio Science is on IEEEExplore

AT RASC organization 2018, May 28 – June 1

Deadline for submission Jan 10

Author Notification in Feb

Proff Uslenghi, Ross Stone and Van DeeLe in the organizing committee.

Special sessions, workshops, conveners proposals are welcome.

5 general lectures chosen.

Selection of the location for GASS 2020 and 2023

Ross Stone reports his mistake in the comparative budget table (and penalizes Italy) and saying it was brought to his attention by Prof Sorrentino (very honestly).

5 min presentation of each bid

Dates should be flexible and the Board will choose taking into account the main conflicts.

Rome wins on Sapporo, Warsaw, and Singapore. A date before Aug 15 is recommended

We vote also for 2023 and Sapporo wins.

Council 4 Aug 26

Union Resolutions

Paul Lagasse is appointed Honorary President.

A Working Group URSI-ISPRS is created on risk management (France proposal)

Bulgaria and Ucraina go to the status of Associate member. Also the other Associate members will remain as such (Argentina, Chile, Singapore,...).

Corrections to the **Terms of Reference of the Commissions, Publication Board, AP/ AT RASC, and YS standing committees** are approved

Finance is discussed showing how the URSI annual budget is always close to zero with slight deficit or slight surplus. Nevertheless URSI has a solid patrimony to ensure the smooth management of the activity

URSI membership

It is suggested to the Board to prepare a document on the advantages of being a URSI member to be sent to the URSI members for diffusion in the countries

Date GASS 2020

Due to the beginning of University classes and other conflicting meetings a vote is asked for opinion on the dates.

Starting Aug 1, Aug 22, or Aug 29. The last possibility got most votes but the final decision will be taken by the Board and the LOC.

Meeting of the URSI Member states, Aug 22 2017

The aim of the meeting is to exchange experiences to grow the number of URSI member states and the attendance to URSI activities.

URSI secretariat can support by delivering the email of GASS and AT RASC attendees and submitting authors to each country

URSI membership is to be endorsed by the URSI national member

URSI website can advertise the national meetings

Usually the national funding come through the national academies or formal scientific groups. It is important to maintain a connection between URSI national committee and this nationally funded groups to obtain financial support.

France:

a national URSI Society was established with legal status. The Officers are elected for 3 years, maximum 3 mandates. www.ursi-france.org

They organize 3-day annual meetings (aiming to become international), 80-100 participants, they publish two special issues (Compte Rendus de l'Academie des Sciences, Revue de l'Electricite et de l'Electronique. The presented papers are open accessible on the Web page. They use the URSI general funding (500 euro) for YS support asking to the awarded YS to write a paper for the Radio Science Bulletin.

They have also a URSI France medal awarded every year, they produce a quarterly Newsletter for the French Radio Scientist.

People are attracted by advertising in the different scientific communities.

India:

a national URSI committee recently reactivated since 2014 is organizing Regional Conference on Radio Science every 18 months. They have more than 200 people. They have just formed the Indian Radio Science Society aiming at popularize radio science in India and neighbor countries. They work to include Radio Science courses in the University curricula.

Japan:

Japan National Committee of URSI formed in 1949. Reports available on www.ursi.jp describing URSI activity in Japan.

They organize annual meetings, student paper competition, special issue in URSI radio science, award medals, and additional national funding for GASS YS awards