

Esteemed Chairs of IFToMM MOs, PCs and TCs, Dear friends,

through this email I would like to send you, also in the name of the whole IFToMM Executive Council (EC), our best wishes for this Season and the New Year. May you, your friends and colleagues, as well as your beloved ones, have a good and prosperous year, and may the difficult times that all of our world is currently facing be overcome soon and bring again bounty to every day's and everyone's life.

As this year is coming to its end, there are some sad and other upheaving instances to report.

Two grieving news are that again two of our long-lasting and beloved colleagues and friends have departed from our world.

Just at the end of November, the painful news reached us from Italy that Prof. Alberto Rovetta, a great enthusiastic IFToMMist since the early days of IFToMM, had passed away on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at his home. Prof. Alberto Rovetta was a member of the IFToMM Executive Council and chair of the TC Micromachines, besides being a member in several TCs and PCs also with an initiator activity and continuous participation, overall receiving the IFToMM Award of Merit in 2010. One cannot imagine modern mechatronics and the developments in IFToMM on the past decades without Prof. Rovetta, and he will leave a huge gap in our research and human community, not only as a brilliant researcher, but also as a "volcanic" source of energy and inspiration as well as a friendly and human counselor to all of us. He will stay with us with his visions and energy forever.

Just before Christmas, the terrible news reached us from Prof. Ceccarelli that Prof. Carlos Lopez-Cajún had passed away on Sunday 20 December, where he was assisted by his family and his beloved wife Maria. Prof. Lopez Cajún has been an outstanding IFToMMist contributing in many activities as a noted scientist and a great teacher with achievements in theory, design and practice of several fields of MMS. He has been an influencing leader organizing the IFToMM World Congress in 2011 in Mexico, and in IFToMM he has served in many positions as a member of TCs and PCs and of the Executive Council, up to being Secretary General. Again, we cannot imagine the big success of IFToMM over the past decades without Prof. Lopez Cajún's brilliancy and devotion, and he will stay with us with his paramount inspiration and devotion for science and teaching in mechanism and machine science for the times to come.

We mourn together in the IFToMM community and with their relatives and friends for these dark news, and the IFToMM EC has devoted to them in deference and appreciation some grieving minutes of silence in full presence during the online meeting held on December 9, 2020. An obituary of Prof. Rovetta is enclosed to this email, and a corresponding obituary for Prof. Lopez-Cajún is to be sent as soon as it is received.

On the upheaving side, we at the IFToMM EC have been able to progress expeditiously within the broad agenda 2020-2023. Two online meetings were performed in 2020 with all EC members present (one on July 17th, one on December 9th), and several decisions could be taken within a stringent agenda of 2h over several time zones (from California to Tokyo with 17h time difference between the two extremes). For this, I thank all the EC members for their availability, activity and devotion.

Among the achieved and/or decided items it is to be reported:

- 1) A stringent time flow for online EC meetings was established with 90 minutes devoted to operational issues and 30 minutes of contributions from observers. This ensures sufficient EC time to be allotted with high priority to manage the IFToMM affairs and take decisions, as well as due consideration of affairs of PCs and TCs as agenda points in future EC meetings, as was made proof of in the last two EC meetings.

- 2) A distribution of agendas between IFToMM EC members was established according to geographical (regions), organizational (PCs, TCs) and functional items in order to allow for dedicated person-to-person communication and proper and timely process handling (see attachment).
- 3) A fast-track procedure was developed and decided for ideal IFToMM patronage of conferences/symposia/workshops proposal and approval. A corresponding slim proposal form and simple support flow is being currently finished and shall be issued early 2021. The same is being developed and decided for monetary support (Young Delegate Program, Summer Schools).
- 4) A structuring of IFToMM publication partnerships for IFToMM affiliation according to different tiers has been worked out and will be implemented until spring 2021 (see attachment).
- 5) A new organizational instrument termed "Cross-Disciplinary Activity Groups" has been developed and decided. The purpose of these cross-disciplinary groups is to coordinate activities that will lead to integrating cross-disciplinary work among TC's , PC's and MO's. The activities will be focused on identifying common knowledge in several groups and contributing to wider areas of knowledge. The leading idea is to be aware of the coming future from a broader scope of view and to attract enthusiastic young researchers as well as active and motivated scientists over the whole spectrum of IFToMM groups. As a starting point, four cross-disciplinary activity groups have been identified: CDG 1: Securing our Future Environment –Air, Water, Energy; CDG 2: IFToMM Young Faculty Group; CDG 3: IFToMM Women's Group; CDG 4: IFToMM Graduate Student's Group (see attachment). The cross-disciplinary groups will be activated within the first quarter of 2021.
- 6) Last, but not least, one of the main goals of the first year in the term 2020-2023 of the EC had been to create a corporate identity of IFToMM through common letterheads (which you have received), functional email addresses for EC members and operations (which are already being used now), and to launch a new IFToMM website that will look attractive and enthralling to young (and senior) researchers to rejuvenate IFToMM. The EC has discussed first drafts on its first online meeting on July 17, 2020, and has approved the implementation of the new look-and-feel of the website and its launching on its second meeting on December 9, 2020. The implementation of the new Webpage is finished and some minor revisions are being currently carried out, so that the webpage will become live within the first weeks of January. The webpage will be a front window of IFToMM activities on the news and enthralling side, while documents for downloading will be available through a secured cloud virtual disk available to all IFToMM members (see attached slides). The website is implemented in WordPress and will allow MOs, PCs, and TCs to edit the contents in supervised mode (to avoid pirate fumbling) to fit most their needs. In this respect, we would be grateful to receive "hot & hype" pics and video clips of your newest research, which we can include in the webpage. With this agenda point being completed, a main milestone of the strategy 2020 of boosting IFToMM in the embracing and thriving cooperation within our scientific world will be brought to reality.

As you will see from the above-noted report items, we at the IFToMM EC are committed to "making things happen", which we hope will find your support and approval.

On the other side, unfortunately, we see from the incoming IFToMM fee influxes that several MOs have not yet wired the agreed and invoiced IFToMM fees for 2020. I would like to appeal to you to fulfill this commitment on your side without repeated admonitions. We at the EC are investing our capacities to bring forwards this society, and repeated reminders bind a lot of effort which could be

invested elsewhere much better. Hence, as a Christmas wish (for those of you who celebrate this event, for the others, just a wish), please send your already in Summer 2020 invoiced IFToMM (rather moderate) 2020 fees presently. With this, you warrant that IFToMM activities can progress as planned and as stipulated by all of us. We thank you for your kind consideration. For the others (not too few) who have fulfilled their fee obligations, I send our deepest thanks and appreciation for supporting this society by your monetary contributions.

With our best wishes,

for the whole IFToMM EC

Andres Kecskemethy
IFToMM President

PS: The (on the EC meeting 2020-02 on December 9, 2020) approved full minutes of the meeting 2020-01 on July 17, 2020 will be sent to you presently by the IFToMM Secretary General, Prof. Erwin Lovasz. The corresponding full minutes of the EC Meeting 2020-02 on December 7, 2020 will be sent to you as soon as they are approved by the EC.

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