

Minutes of the closed CSMD Commission meeting in Les Diablerets (June 3, 2013)

Present members and consultants: L. Farrugia, J.M. Gillet, B. Gillon (chair), D. Jayatilaka, P. Macchi, C. Gatti, C. Lecomte, A. Pinkerton, W. Scherer

Invited: Ph. Nakashima (QCBED project), K. Wozniak and P. Dominiak (ECDM7 organizers)

1 - Future of the Gordon Conference on electron distribution and chemical bonding

Piero Macchi, as Chair of the present GRC, reported on the situation: the number of participants (101) is insufficient. GRC organization wants at least 110 and anyway as close as possible to 140 which is the average. This meeting has been under surveillance for three terms (2007, 2010, 2013) and this number was improved this time (10 people more than in 2010). We were expecting to gather more people in Europe but only 10 more. So the probability that it will be cancelled is very high.

Several reasons were invoked to explain for the global decrease of participants:

- not enough oral presentations to have high attendance? Here: 33 slots for speakers
- the lack of interest for discussions in the CSMD community?
- too high registration fees? Reduction of travelling funds?
- June less favorable than July for teachers?

The decision will be taken on different criteria:

- most important is the number of participants (increase of 10)
- amount of gathered fundings (increase % 2010)
- evaluation by the participants (must be very good)

The final decision will be announced in 6 months. We will then know if an application must be done for the next Gordon or not.

- If not cancelled,

The next conference must be organized in 2 years – 2015 – which enters in conflict with both next Sagamore and ECDM meetings. All our conferences have a 3-year periodicity so we will have problem of overlap between our regular events. The committee agrees that it is important to keep the Gordon in any case because is a prestigious conference.

The question of merging Sagamore with the Gordon conference in 2015 was examined but the replacement of Sagamore, that is international, by the Gordon, that is either in Europe or in US, would be a problem for Japanese community.

There are two candidates for the vice-chair election (at least one name is needed): Dominik Schaniel and Tibor Koritzanski. However Tibor cannot be elected as he is absent at the present conference.

NB: D. Schaniel was elected on June 4 as new Vice Chair

A discussion about the preferred sites took place: Mount Holyoke (not very good), Newport (to attract more people), Les Diablerets (good)

- If cancelled,

Several options were discussed but no option looks really satisfying.

The present GRC belongs to the category «Inorganic Chemistry». Other meetings in Chemistry in 2014 where our field could be represented are:

- GRC on Crystal engineering (supported by the CSC commission) but their community is too large and we would have a few speakers only that is even worse than no GRC,

- GRC on Conductivity and magnetism in molecular crystals, but this is a too specialized field for our community.

The commission concludes that it is not desirable to merge and dilute into another community.

2 - upcoming conferences:

- **ECDM7** will be organized by K. Wosniak and P. Dominiak in 2016 who gave some information about the preparation. They are expecting 150 participants with new participants from eastern countries (ECDM6 gathered 130 participants). The location is a hotel outside the center of Warsaw which can be reached in 25' with public bus. The costs are not too high.

- **Sagamore XVIII** will be organized by C. Gatti in 2015 near the Como Lake. The date could be in September, if the Gordon is earlier in the year.

- **IUCr Congress** in Montreal (August, 2014)

The results from the IPC meeting in May in Montreal have to be accepted first by the Executive Committee. There will be 8 parallel sessions instead of 7 in Madrid and therefore 112 MS instead of 98. The list of MS and KN concerning CCSMD was sent to the commission members before the closed meeting.

3 - commission projects:

- **QCBED project:**

An update was done by Philip Nakashima. All groups listed in the project expressed their interest (6 groups) to Philip. Wolfgang Scherer is also interested to collaborate (Zn, Be already started) and Carlo Gatti is involved in the theoretical work.

The focal point is to find money and students. Funding by the Australian government is probable because of the very good report obtained by the project.

The work will be organized as following: distribute the metals to the different groups, with two groups for each metal, and meet once a year (during 3 years). Au, Sn will be studied by students of Philip Nakashima and he is expecting first results for a presentation at the Montreal Congress.

- **round robin test** on Mn formate :

It is necessary to grow single crystals (size for synchrotron and conventional sources). B. Gillon proposes to ask a French chemist (D. Luneau) to perform the crystallization and to send the batches to the involved groups.

4 - Actions for the international year of crystallography.

The contributions of the commission will be limited to a few posters on the website.

For the commission: B. Gillon (chair) 14/02/2014