

2019 MMM TC Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 29th, 2019, 11:00 - 12:10

Conference Room Stias Centre,
Stellenbosch, South Africa

1. Attendance and apologies

15 Attendees: L. Auret; I. Craig; B. Sun; J. Burchell; K. Brooks; M. Hovd; K. Asano; O. Yamaguchi; K. Oosthuizen; A. Desbien; Z. Chen; Ch. Yang; A. Ferreira; U. Knechtelsdorfer; A. Kugi (AK)

The TC chair AK also received a number of apologies from absent TC members, which are not explicitly listed in the minutes.

2. Approval of the agenda

The Agenda is approved as is, no objection or comments.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes are approved as they are.

4. IFAC 2019 MMM Symposium in Stellenbosch, South Africa: résumé from the organizers

Lidia Auret gives a short report about the IFAC MMM Symposium 2019. In total, 77 people from 19 countries were registered for the conference and 43 full papers were accepted out of 57 submissions. Moreover, 5 industrial contributions and 2 posters were accepted. In addition to the regular sessions, 5 plenary lectures and 1 Women in Mining and Automation session were included in the program. The papers had a strong focus on mining operations, mineral processing, process modeling, advanced process control and optimization, artificial intelligence, machine learning systems, and human machine systems as well as measurement systems and sensors. On behalf of the TC, AK thanks the organizers for the excellent organization of the conference.

5. IFAC MMM Workshop 2021

For the IFAC Workshop MMM 2021, one proposal was submitted for a workshop to be held in Nancy, France, September 1 – 3, 2021 by Dr. A. Khelassi (Arcelor Mittal Research and Development Center) and Prof. D. Theilliol (University of Lorraine), both members of the IFAC TC 6.2. Unfortunately, the two proposers could not attend the symposium in South Africa, but they were ready for a teleconference call during the meeting in case there are certain open questions from the TC members to be answered. AK shortly presented the proposal and after a short discussion, all attendant members unanimously approved the proposal. In

the next step, the proposers are asked to submit the proposal officially to IFAC via the submission system. According to the rules of IFAC, the proposal will be evaluated and, if successful, will be formally approved by IFAC. Dr. A. Khelassi and Prof. D. Theilliol are asked to contact the organizers of the previous workshops and symposia to share their experience in order to make the proposal successfully evaluated in the first run.

6. IFAC MMM Symposium 2022

Unfortunately, for the IFAC Symposium MMM 2022 no proposal was received, although initially there was a good chance to get one from Brisbane, Australia. However, there is a strong interest from Canada, Peru and still also from Australia to organize one of the next workshops or symposia. The potential organizers are encouraged to submit their proposal at their earliest convenience. For this, the procedure for submitting a proposal is summarized in the following:

1. Please send the written proposal to the TC chair kugi@acin.tuwien.ac.at at your earliest convenience.
2. The proposal is limited to 2 pages and should explain the following points in sufficient detail because it serves as the basis for the decision:
 - a. availability of an appropriate infrastructure and facilities for setting up a workshop/symposium of the size of recent MMMs
 - b. proposing team and their activities in IFAC, in particular with respect to MMM
 - c. geographical distribution of the symposiums in earlier years
 - d. moderate registration fees and availability of some inexpensive accommodation
3. The TC chair will send all the proposals to the TC members.
4. During the TC meeting 2020 in the course of the 21st IFAC World Congress in Berlin, Germany, July 12-17, 2020, a representative of each team will be asked to briefly (5 minutes) present its candidature. Based on the written proposal and the presentation, the TC members attending the meeting will vote for selecting the place.

7. IFAC TC 6.2. Chair for the next triennium (discussion and election)

Since the second period as TC chair of the IFAC TC 6.2 Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing of AK ends in 2020, it was time to identify possible successors. AK sent an email to all TC members and asked for nominations of persons who could serve as possible chairs for the IFAC TC 6.2. In response to this email, Prof. Chris Aldrich was the only nomination and he was nominated by several TC members independently. After a short discussion, all attendant members unanimously voted for Prof. Chris Aldrich as the next TC chair. AK will inform the IFAC secretariat about this decision. After the meeting, Prof. Chris Aldrich confirmed that he is willing to take over this position.

8. Free discussion on MMM TC activities and organization

- The TC has 63 members and 22 of which are from industry. AK is asking to nominate new active members for the TC, in particular younger colleagues and female members.
- The TC homepage <https://tc.ifac-control.org/6/2> is alive and permanently updated. Each member is asked to update the personal profile. There is

also a picture gallery, members are encouraged to provide pictures of interesting MMM processes and facilities. The slides of the presentations from the plenary talks and from the Women in Mining and Automation session will be made available for download on the TC homepage, if made available by the authors.

- AK urgently asks for contributions related to MMM topics to the IFAC blog. It is expected that each IFAC TC provides at least one blog per year. PLEASE send an email to the IFAC MMM TC Vice-Chair for Social Media, Otis Nyandoro (o.nyandoro@ee.wits.ac.za), if you have any ideas or proposals. Moreover, it would also be great if our TC sent out posts on IFAC Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- AK asks to submit contributions (open invited track proposals, invited session proposals, papers) related to the MMM subjects to the IFAC World Congress in Berlin, Germany, July 12-17, 2020, see also <https://www.ifac2020.org/>. The deadlines are as follows:
 - 15 September 2019: Open invited track proposals
 - 15 October 2019: Invited session proposals
 - 31 October 2019: Draft manuscript submission

AK emphasizes that it is very important for the TC to be active at the World Congress and thus to indicate that the papers are related to our TC.

6. Date and place of next TC meeting

Next TC meeting will be in Berlin, Germany in the course of the IFAC World Congress, July 12-17, 2020.

Andreas Kugi
(TC Chair)

Stellenbosch, 29.08.2019