

## IFAC Technical Committee 9-5 for Technology, Culture and International Stability (TECIS)

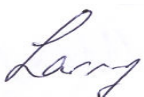
Ours is a unique community of over 80 members from a range of disciplines with a common interest to apply advanced control and automation systems in the service of all life. The success of our community rests in the value we place on a spirit of openness to new ideas and new contributions whilst retaining a deep sense that control and automation has a major part to play in addressing the challenges our world faces. Thank you for being part of this effort.

Firstly, a warm welcome the many new members to the IFAC family from as far apart as Brazil, Albania, Ireland, Azerbaijan... to name a few! Your contributions are deeply valued and it is clear you will each make your mark in IFAC.

In 2015 we achieved several milestones, including the publication “M. Hersh (ed.) (2015). Ethical Engineering for International Development and Environmental Stability, Springer-Verlag: London”, a collection of contributions from the Working Group (WG) on Engineering Ethics. We formally established a “Young Members Forum” WG, created a new WG on Cost Oriented Automation and hosted the TECIS 2015 conference in Sozopol. Maintaining such forward momentum into 2016 would be no easy task! However, momentum has been retained thanks to the tremendous work of our members. Indeed, there was so much activity that, in this short newsletter, I can only give the briefest overview of developments. Additional reports and extracts accompany this newsletter with details on achievements in 2016.

The main event was the TECIS 2016 conference in Durres, Albania which brought together IFAC members from as far apart as Brazil in the west and Azerbaijan in the east. I attached extracts from the draft IPC/NCO report and here I summarise a few main points. The main contributing IFAC national chapters (NMOs) in terms of papers presented included Kosovo, Austria, Ireland, Germany, Bulgaria and France and a total of 60 scientific papers were presented during the three day event. The event was a new departure for IFAC in that it was the initiative of the Kosovo and Austrian NMOs to organise an event in a non-member country. This was a tremendous success and Albania is now on track to become a new country in the IFAC family. The success of the young members forum, formally established in 2015 but active since TECIS 2013, has resulted in IFAC formalising the forum into the “Working Group for Emerging Control and Automation Scientists and Engineers for International Stability (ECAS)”. We are very happy to say that the co-chairs of the forum have agreed to continue as chairs and to promote new ideas and members attracted to work in this field. During the TECIS 2016 conference a series of reflective sessions were organised by the ECAS team and this culminated in a panel session which synthesised ideas for further developments and engagement by IFAC, and provided the basis for a session proposal for IFAC WC 2017. A short draft report on these sessions accompanies this newsletter. If any members have anything to add or wish to comment please send your comments to me directly before January 13<sup>th</sup>. Another development during 2016 was the proposal for two new events in the next triennium (2018/19). The first is a TECIS event in Baku which will be the first IFAC event in Azerbaijan initially proposed by Dr. Bahadur Ibrahimov. The second is an event to be organised by the Bulgarian NMO who did such a wonderful job for TECIS 2015 initially entitled “Decision Support Systems in International Stability Research”. We will work with the proposers over the next year to formalise the proposals for submission to the IFAC TB. Another important piece of business was finalised in TECIS 2016. The outgoing chairperson, Dr. Larry Stapleton asked for nominations for the new incoming chair to take over following the world congress in 2017. At the TC meeting there was unanimous agreement that Professor Peter Kopacek would be incoming chair. We are delighted that Professor Kopacek has agreed to take the chair and know that the TC is in safe hands going into the future. In 2016 TECIS members were also very active in their contributions to the World Congress in Toulouse in 2017. Two special sessions have been proposed and submitted, totalling around a dozen papers, plus several other papers, generally in cost-oriented automation and cultural features. At the time of writing these are in review and our fingers are crossed for an excellent TC 9-5 presence in France in July. Finally, another special issue of the international computer science journal “Artificial Intelligence and Society” is being organised as a platform for disseminating TC 9-5 research and praxis insights.

Very best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a prosperous 2017. I look forward to seeing you in France in July!



Dr. Larry Stapleton, TC 9-5 Chair