NEWSLETTER

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE D'OPTIQUE · INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR OPTICS

SPECIAL ISSUE: ICO GENERAL MEETING

"In the past four years, ICO has been facing and still faces a crucial phase".

Roberta Ramponi from Politecnico di Milano (Italy) is the current president of the ICO.

In 2018 in Delft, the Netherlands, we celebrated 70 years since ICO first General Congress, ICO-1, which was also held in Delft, in 1948. Since then, the ICO Congress has been held every three years. Proved to be an important and prestigious forum of scientific discussion for the Optics and Photonics community, with a wide and growing worldwide participation, it includes many scientists from developing countries. Participation of students and young scientists has been supported, and a careful policy to favor gender diversity has been set in place throughout the years.

The last ICO General Congress, ICO-24, was held in Tokyo in 2017, and it has seen the participation of about 1000 delegates from more than 20 countries. The Opening Ceremony was held in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan; six prestigious guests, including the Mayor of Tokyo, and more than 850 registered attendees joined this event.

ICO-25 was supposed to be held in Dresden, Germany, in 2020, together with the 16th Conference of the International Society on Optics Within Life Sciences (OWLS-16), but it had to be postponed due to the pandemic related to COVID-19. Initially rescheduled from 13 to 17 September 2021, considering travel restrictions and difficulties still in place, it is now postponed from 5 to 9 September 2022. However, ICO General Assembly will take place online on 13th and 15th September 2021, together with elections of the Bureau and Executive positions for the next term (2021-2024).

Since its foundation, as our motto says, ICO has been and is "the place where the World of Optics meets". Actually, it aims more and more to be also the place where Optics meets the World, overcoming social, economic, religious and political barriers in the name of Science, fostering knowledge and technology transfer for the sake of innovation and human well-being.

Participants in the last ICO General Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, in August 2017, in the presence of the emperors of Japan.

Some of the participants at the first official meeting of ICO held from12th till 17th July 1948 at the Physics Laboratory of the Technische Hogeschool in Delft, The Netherlands.

Concerning ICO sponsorship to conferences, the activity dropped during the pandemic. Indeed, although some organizers moved to online events, mainly in the case of large professional organizations, many others decided to cancel or postpone the events.

Following the great success of the International Year of Light 2015, an International Day of Light (IDL) has been established and celebrated every year on May 16th. ICO has given its active participation and contributed speakers, including myself, at some of the official events, and helped promoting activities. This year, the focus of the IDL is the Trust Science Campaign (#LightDay2021 #TrustScience) that ICO signed and promotes. Indeed, the World probably never experienced as hardly and widely as under the current pandemic conditions the need to rely on Science and Technology to win the threats that can arise from everywhere and to find solutions capable of improving our quality of life.

Among ICO flagship activities I would like to mention our yearly award program. Our Awardees become our ambassadors and bring to the World a positive message of optimism and trust in science. I take the opportunity to deeply thank all nominators who have contributed with excellent proposals throughout the years, and to ICO selection committees for their great work. My special thanks go to all the ICO Bureau and Execom members who shared with me the past four years, being always proactive and positive.

My deepest thought goes to our Associate Secretary, Dr. Frank Höller, who unexpectedly suddenly passed away at the age of 65 on April 4th, 2021. It has been for me a great privilege to meet him and interact with him, he has been both a precious colleague and friend. His enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication inspired our actions and will remain in our memory.

We still have a long way to go, however, with the support of all our Members, and in conjunction with ISC, I am confident that we can contribute to shape a better and sustainable World for future generations.

Prof. Roberta Ramponi
President of the ICO

Online procedure for the ICO Bureau elections

On Monday September 13th, from 13:00h the candidates for the election of the new ICO Bureau will present their statements.

Yasuhiko Arakawa, ICO Past-President, chairs the ICO Nomination Committee.

The ICO General Meeting (GM) will take place virtually in 2021, as already announced. Traditionally, a 24h-notice for candidacies for the new ICO Bureau was accepted. However, due to the exceptional circumstances of the virtual format, for this election, the candidates must apply before 14:00h CET August 31st 2021, so that the electronic voting system can be ready on time for the election. **The first session will be on Monday September 13th,** from 13:00h to 15:00 (CET) and the candidates for the election of the new ICO Bureau will present their statements. Then, the first round of vote will open and all the already registered delegates will receive an **email from the voting platform** "polyas.com" with a link for voting until Wednesday 15th by 10:00AM (CET). At the second session of the ICO GM on 15th September 2021 from 14:00 till 15:00 (CET) the results of the first round will be announced: the ICO executive committee and four vice-presidents (one from industry).

Delegates have been asked to register before August 1st. If no registration has been made by the corresponding Territorial Committee (TC), the TC is regarded to abstain the voting. The number of votes for each TC/International organization is published below. The second session of the ICO General Meeting will be devoted essentially to the presentation of the results of the first round and to open the second round of voting for the remaining four ICO vice-presidents (one of them from industry). After the meeting, the second voting round will open (see the schedule below) and the remaining four vice-presidents (one from industry) will be elected. The last General meeting for announcing the new ICO Bureau will take place on Friday 17th September from 14:00 till 15:00 (CET).

Prof. Yasuhiko Arakawa
Chairman of the ICO Nominating Committee

SCHEDULE OF THE ONLINE ICO GENERAL ASSEMBLY (CENTRAL EUROPE TIME)

ACTIVITY	STARTS	ENDS	ONLINE SYSTEM	PARTICIPANTS
Voting Registration	15/06/21 (00:00)	01/08/21 (00:00)	GOOGLE FORM	ICO DELEGATES
Nominations	15/06/21 (00:00)	31/08/21 (14:00)	Mail to Nominating Committee Chair	TERRITORIAL COMMITTEES
Endorsements	15/06/21 (00:00)	08/09/21 (14:00)	Mail to Nominating Committee Chair	TERRITORIAL COMMITTEES
ICO Bureau Meeting	13/09/21 (12:00)	13/09/21 (13:00)	https://zoom.us*	ICO BUREAU MEMBERS
Gen. Assembly (1st session)	13/09/21 (13:00)	13/09/21 (15:00)	https://zoom.us*	ICO DELEGATES
1st Online Vote	13/09/21 (15:00)	15/09/21 (10:00)	polyas.com	ICO DELEGATES
Gen. Assembly (2nd session)	15/09/21 (14:00)	15/09/21 (15:00)	https://zoom.us*	ICO DELEGATES
2nd Online Vote	15/09/21 (15:00)	17/09/21 (10:00)	polyas.com	ICO DELEGATES
Gen. Assembly (3rd session)	17/09/21 (14:00)	17/09/21 (15:00)	https://zoom.us*	ICO DELEGATES
ICO Bureau Meeting	17/09/21 (15:00)	17/06/21 (16:00)	https://zoom.us*	OLD & NEW ICO BUREAU MEMBERS

(*) The link for the videoconference will be available at the ICO website one week before the meeting

Shares and Votes of ICO Territories as of July 2021

Any potential error in the table must be reported to the ICO Secretariat.

Humberto Michinel is the current Secretary General of the ICO with email: secretariat@e-ico.org

COUNTRY	SHARES	VOTES	COUNTRY	SHARES	VOTES
Argentina	3	2	Korea	4	3
Armenia	1	1	Latvia	1	1
Australia	6	3	Lithuania	1	A
Belarus	2	A	Mexico	3	2
Belgium	4	A	Moldova	1	A
Brazil	5	3	Morocco	0	A
Canada	8	4	Netherlands	4	A
China	11	5	New Zealand	3	2
Colombia	2	2	Norway	4	3
Cuba	1	1	Poland	4	3
Czech Rep.	2	2	Portugal	2	2
Denmark	4	3	Romania	1	1
Ecuador	0	A	Russia	18	6
Estonia	1	1	Singapore	3	2
Finland	4	3	Slovak Rep.	2	2
France	15	5	Spain	6	3
Germany	15	5	Sudan	1	1
Ghana/W. Africa	1	A	Sweden	8	4
Greece	3	2	Switzerland	6	3
Hungary	3	A	Taipei	3	A
India	4	3	Tunisia	1	1
Indonesia	1	1	Turkey	1	A
Ireland	3	2	Ukraine	2	2
Iran	1	A	U.K.	12	5
Israel	4	3	USA	27	6
Italy	12	5	Venezuela	2	2
Japan	15	5			

(A = Associated Territory with no voting rights)

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY	SHARES	VOTES
LAM	1	1
OWLS	1	1
OSA	5	3
SPIE	5	3
IEEE	2	2
EOS	1	1
RIAO	1	1

Responsibility for the correctness of the information on this page rests with the International Commission for Optics (ICO); http://www.e-ico.org/. *President:* Prof. Roberta Ramponi, Director IFN-CNR, Politecnico di Milano, Italy; roberta.ramponi@polimi.it. *Treasurer:* Prof. Joseph Niemela, International Center for Theoretical Physics, Italy; niemela@ictp.it. *Secretary:* Prof. Humberto Michinel, Universidade de Vigo, Spain; secretariat@e-ico.org.

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