

## Report of the IFMBE Membership Committee

8<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.

The IFMBE Membership Committee evaluated and commented membership applications from Bosnia-Herzegovina and from the Brazilian Society of Clinical Engineering. Also commented the application of the Croatian IFMBE member society to change its name.

### ***The Committee has been active on the „neighbors“ project.***

The aim is to involve BME related societies in the neighboring countries of IFMBE member societies' countries. Prof. Kenneth Nkuma-Udah, a member of the Committee is now president of the national society in Nigeria. He organised an African Conference on Biomedical Engineering (AFROBIOMEDIC 2016) last year with expected IFMBE endorsement and a "loan" of \$10,000 to bring at least 20 delegates representing 20 national societies in Africa. Since the budget required to sponsor them was not realized at the last minute, all except one declined attendance. However, IFMBE represented by the Treasurer Prof Marc Nyssen and Developing countries' WG Chair Prof Mario Secca witnessed the conference and then proposed that a Working Group for Africa using Nigeria and South Africa (already in IFMBE) be formed.

The Singapore Society of IFMBE has been also active in the neighbors project. Three activities were reported by Prof. Toh Siew-Lok, member of the Committee. The Singapore BME Society supported the Thai BME Societies by participating in their conferences encouraging them to submit applications to join IFMBE. The only thing that takes a long time to do is to get their society's constitution translated into English which until today has not been done. With the sponsorship of IFMBE, a clinical engineering workshop was organized in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in 2010 for their biomedical engineers to encourage them to form a society so that it could be affiliated to IFMBE. The Vietnamese BME society has not been formed yet.

Likewise, members of the Singapore BME Society had also participated in conferences organized by the Indonesian biomedical engineers. Again, the Indonesian colleagues were informed of IFMBE and encouraged to join the federation. However, as far as we know, they have not formed a BME society yet. Most probably the same reason applies here as in Vietnam, the inability to get dedicated people.

### ***Suggestion of the Membership Committee***

We suggest starting a campaign and fact finding exercise at each main conference, starting in Tampere. The UN has a free world map and free region maps for downloading. UN has over 190 member nations. Could be easy, and puts the effort back to attendees. We won't have every country at the conference, but could be a start. The UN list avoids some political problems, such as including one China region.

We suggest IFMBE AC to persuade EMBEC '2017 organizers to print out a UN World map in A0 size and exhibit it in the registration area. The Membership Committee will mark the IFMBE member countries with e.g. blue pins. Attendees from non IFMBE member countries will be asked during registration to mark their countries with pins of another color and also to write their opinion into an exercise book why their country is not a member yet.

Ákos Jobbágy

chair