

**MINUTES OF THE 2013
GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)
AND FOUNDATION COMMITTEE (FC)
MEETINGS**

Sendai

**9:00-11:30 on 26 September
Multi-Media Hall, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan during 13WCS**

(a) AGENDA OF THE GA MEETING

- (1) Verification of the achievement of the quorum according to Art. 10-7 of the Statutes (Secretary General)**
- (2) Approval of the agenda (all)**
- (3) Present membership and perspectives for its extension to further individual and corporate Ordinary Members (A. Martelli on behalf of the Secretary General)**
- (4) Present financial situation and perspectives for its improvement (Treasurer and President)**
- (5) Approval of the financial report of the years 2011-2013 and decisions about the budget for the years 2013-2015 (all)**
- (6) Proposals concerning the 14th World Conference to be held in 2015 (concerned members)**
- (7) Decision concerning the 14th World Conference and appointment of its Chairman, who will become member of the new EC (all)**
- (8) Report on the ASSISi journal (President and Prof. Benzoni)**
- (9) Election of the 5 new members of the EC (up to 5 members may be voted for by each member) (all)**
- (10) General discussion on recent and planned scientific-technical activities and other issues (all)**
- (11) Any other business (concerned persons)**

The GA meeting will be followed by a meeting of the new Executive Committee, where the President will communicate / confirm the names of the Vice-Presidents, Secretary General, Treasurer .

(b) MINUTES OF THE GA MEETING

(1) Verification of the achievement of the quorum according to Art. 10-7 of the Statutes

The achievement of the quorum was positively verified by the Vice-President Alessandro Martelli, who had been delegated to cover the functions of Secretary General (due to the absence of Massimo Forni), with the agreement of the President.

In fact, more than 1/3 of the members with voting right attended the meeting or were represented by proxies. In fact:

- prior to the beginning of the meeting, the members with voting right were the following 36:
 1. Ahmadi, Hamid (UK)
 2. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA)
 3. Bubis, Alexander (Russian Federation)
 4. Chen, Zeng Qing (P.R. China)
 5. Clemente, Paolo (Italy)
 6. DIS (USA)
 7. Du, Yong Feng (P.R. China)
 8. Dusi, Alberto (Italy)
 9. Eisenberg, Jacob (Russian Federation)
 10. Erdik, Mustafa (Turkey)
 11. FIP Industriale (Italy)
 12. Forni, Massimo (Italy)
 13. Fuller, Keith N.G. (UK)
 14. Giuliani, Gian Carlo (Italy)
 15. GERB (Germany)
 16. JSSI (Japan)
 17. Li, Long An (P.R. China)
 18. Kelly, James M. (USA)
 19. Kostantinidis, Dimitrios (Canada)
 20. Medeot, Renzo (Italy)
 21. Martelli, Alessandro (Italy)
 22. Maurer Söhne (Germany)
 23. Mazza, Fabio (Italy)
 24. Neri, Fabio (Italy)
 25. Pinchiaroglio, Luigi (Italy)
 26. Phocas, Marios (Cyprus)
 27. Poggianti, Alessandro (Italy)
 28. Sannino, Umberto (Italy)
 29. Smirnov, Vladimir (Russian Federation)
 30. Tan, Ping (P.R. China)
 31. TASI (Turkey)
 32. Vesa, Gianluca (Italy)
 33. Vulcano, Alfonso (Italy)
 34. Whittaker, David (New Zealand)
 35. Zhou, Fu Lin (P.R. China);
- the members who attended the meeting or were represented through proxies were the following 22:
 1. Ahmadi, Hamid (UK) (present)
 2. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA) (present)
 3. Bubis, Alexander (Russian Federation) (present)
 4. Chen, Zeng Qing (P.R. China) (present)
 5. Clemente, Paolo (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli)
 6. Du, Yong Feng (P.R. China) (present)
 7. Dusi, Alberto (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli)
 8. Erdik, Mustafa (Turkey) (proxy to A. Martelli)
 9. Forni, Massimo (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli)
 10. Fuller, Keith N.G. (UK) (proxy to A. Martelli)
 11. Giuliani, Gian Carlo (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli)
 12. JSSI (Japan) (present)
 13. Martelli, Alessandro (Italy) (present)

14. Maurer Söhne (Germany) (present)
15. Medeot, Renzo (Italy) (present)
16. Neri, Fabio (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli)
17. Poggianti, Alessandro (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli)
18. Smirnov, Vladimir (Russian Federation) (present)
19. Tan, Ping (P.R. China) (present)
20. Vesa, Gianluca (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli)
21. Whittaker, David (New Zealand) (present)
22. Zhou, Fu Lin (P.R. China) (present).

It is noted that the quorum would have been reached even without the proxies (which, in any case, are allowed by the Statutes).

(2) Approval of the agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved. However, it was agreed to advance the elections of both the Executive Committee (EC) and the Foundation Committee (FC) because of the need of some members to leave the meeting for other engagements as soon as possible.

(3) Election of the 5 new members of the EC and appointment of the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer

A. Martelli informed the participants about the nominations received, which concerned:

1. Ahmadi, Hamid (UK)
2. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA)
3. Martelli, Alessandro (Italy)
4. Smirnov, Vladimir (Russian Federation)
5. Whittaker, David (New Zealand).

Twenty one (21) members voted. The ballot papers were checked by G. Benzoni and D. Whittaker. The results of the elections were the following:

1. Martelli, Alessandro (Italy): 20 votes
2. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA): 19 votes
3. Ahmadi, Hamid (UK): 14 votes
4. Smirnov, Vladimir (Russian Federation): 11 votes
5. Whittaker, David (New Zealand): 9 votes
6. Erdik, Mustafa (Turkey): 5 votes
7. Du, Yong Feng (P.R. China): 4 votes (but non-eligible because of the same country as that of the President)
8. Bubis, Alexander (Russian Federation): 2 votes
9. Eisenberg, Jacob (Russian Federation): 2 votes
10. Medeot, Renzo (Italy): 2 votes
11. Saito, Taiki (Japan): 2 votes (but already EC member as Chairman of the 13th World Conference)
12. Forni, Massimo (Italy): 1 vote
13. Maurer Söhne (Germany): 1 vote.

Since the election of the first five members of the above mentioned list respected the conditions prescribed in the Statutes, they have been confirmed by the President as new elected members of the EC.

After the aforesaid elections, since all the new 5 elected members of the EC were present and only the Past-President was absent (but represented by A. Martelli), there was a short meeting of such a Committee (in the presence of all participants in the GA meeting), where the President confirmed:

- as Vice-Presidents Gianmario Benzoni (USA), Alessandro Martelli (Italy) and Vladimir Smirnov (Russian Federation);
- as Secretary General Massimo Forni (Italy);
- as Treasurer Alessandro Martelli (Italy).

Thus, the EC is now formed by:

1. Zhou, Fu Lin (P.R. China) – President to the 14th World Conference in 2015;
2. Fuller, Keith N.G. (UK) – Past-President to the 14th World Conference in 2015;
3. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA) – elected member, Vice-President;
4. Martelli, Alessandro (Italy) – elected member, Vice-President and Treasurer;
5. Smirnov, Vladimir (Russian Federation) – elected member, Vice-President;
6. Ahmadi, Hamid (UK) – elected member;
7. Whittaker, David (New Zealand) – elected member;
8. Saito, Taiki (Japan) – member as Chairman of the 13th World Conference;
9. Chairman of the 14th Conference – to be defined as soon as the site of such a conference will be selected (see item 7);
10. Forni, Massimo (Italy) – Secretary General.

Should the 14th World Conference be organized by G. Benzoni in the USA or by D. Whittaker in New Zealand, as proposed later at the GA meeting (see item 7), one of these two persons will become EC member as chairman of such a conference and Mustafa Erdik (Turkey) will replace him among the elected members, as first of the non-elected ones.

(4) Present membership and perspectives for its extension to further individual and corporate Ordinary Members

During the verification of the results of the vote, A. Martelli, on behalf of the Secretary General, stressed the fact that several members are in arrears in paying their membership dues. In particular, this applies to several founding members, who, therefore, became or will become honorary members without voting right. Luckily, most corporate members (with only one exception) paid all their dues; however, their number remains rather limited. This situation is certainly partly a consequence of the worldwide bad economic situation, but probably also of the fact that the activities of the association have remained essentially limited to the organization of the biannual conferences. In particular, the fact that the journal (SIAPS) was not very successful, to date, may have an effect. The President encouraged the audience to identify and propose new members. A few of them were addressed by him and by A. Martelli during the works (3 new applications, including that of a perspective new corporate member, were received by the Secretary General immediately after the conference).

(5) Present financial situation and perspectives for its improvement

A. Martelli, as Treasurer, also outlined the present financial situation of the association, which obviously feels the effects of that, previously mentioned, concerning membership. He stressed that, at the end of 2012, cash in hand was only 780,00 €. This was also due to the large payments performed for the SIAPS journal in the last years (for this journal there was no money for further payments already in the second half of 2012 and in 2013, as the Treasurer communicated to the EC and the SIAPS editor in 2012).

Copies of the final financial reports concerning the years 2011 and 2012 were distributed to the participants, together with copies of the provisional financial report for 2013.

It is noted that the 2012 report had already been published in the *ASSISi* Internet site at the beginning of 2013 (as required by the Italian law for the years in which the GA does not meet). This procedure will continue in the next years, as well, for a matter of transparency.

(6) Approval of the financial report of the years 2011-2013 and decisions about the budget for the years 2013-2015

The financial reports proposed by the Treasurer were unanimously approved. Concerning the future budgeted, it was only possible:

- to agree that a solution shall be found for the journal, which is important to increase membership;
- to stress again that efforts shall be made by all to that aim.

(7) Proposals concerning the 14th World Conference to be held in 2015

Two sites were preliminarily proposed for the 14th World Conference:

- the University of Southern California at San Diego, USA, which hosts the SRMS facility for multi-directional tests of prototypes of anti-seismic devices (proposal of G. Benzoni, who suggested to hold the conference in October or November 2015);
- Christchurch (where the anti-seismic devices should be widely used for the reconstruction after the recent earthquakes), as recommended site, or Auckland, New Zealand (proposal of D. Whittaker, who suggested to hold the conference in November 2015).

Both proposals were judged of great interest. However, both G. Benzoni and D. Whittaker need to further investigate the feasibility of their proposals, before being able to confirm them and to specify the exact dates and, for New Zealand, the exact site.

(8) Decision concerning the 14th World Conference and appointment of its Chairman, who will become member of the new EC

For the reasons mentioned above, it was decided to wait for the confirmations of the two aforesaid proposals to the *end of 2013*; immediately after such confirmations the EC will take its decision on where the 14th World Conference shall take place. Should the conference be held in San Diego, it will be chaired by G. Benzoni; should it take place in New Zealand, it will be chaired by D. Whittaker.

(9) Report on the ASSISi journal

G. Benzoni, as editor of SIAPS, clarified that the main problem of the journal is that there are very few articles proposed (maybe due to the fact that it is a new journal). It had been planned by G. Benzoni to devote one issue to the manufacturer who are ASSISi corporate members, but only one reacted positively. Anyway, since there is still one year already paid by ASSISi for the journal, G. Benzoni proposed to devote the next issue to the key-note lectures presented at the 13th World Conference.

The President fully agreed on this proposal. The GA (including the EC members) approved unanimously.

(10) General discussion on recent and planned scientific-technical activities and other issues

The President added, to the proposal of G. Benzoni, that, in general, for the papers to be published in the journal, priority shall be left the ASSISi members, but also papers of non-members may be accepted. He also proposed to allow for free access to all to the journal, at least at the time being. Furthermore, he also will examine the possibility to transfer the journal in the P.R. China, where it might be published at no costs for ASSISi. He will let the EC know about the results of this investigation in a short time. The GA approved.

With regard to other items, the President, in agreement with Yong Feng Du (P.R. China) proposed, with the aim of both improving ASSISi membership and favour participation in its world conferences:

1. to distribute a certificate for ASSISi membership to all members;
2. to award prizes at each conference (i.e. every two years), namely:
 - 2 or 3 prizes for outstanding theses, devoted young and middle-aged (less than 50 years old) members;
 - 1 or 2 prizes for lifelong achievements, devoted to seniors members;
3. to establish discounted registration fees for the ASSISi members in its world conferences.

With regards to the first two proposals, there was a general consensus of the participants. Thus, they may considered as approved.

On the contrary, with regard to the third proposal, there was some discussion. The Treasurer and others supported the proposal of the President, by stressing that, in their opinion, a discount for the association members is right and useful: A. Martelli mentioned the Italian association GLIS has applied this procedure for a long time (typically, the registration fee of 120,00 € usually established for the GLIS Seminars, is reduced to 80,00 € for the GLIS members). However, the majority of the present members was against the proposal (although the number of the persons in favor were only slightly lower). In any case, it is worthwhile mentioning that the final decision shall be left to the EC, because: (1) the EC is

competent for the decisions concerning the aforesaid topic; (2) those voting against the proposal also included two honorary founding members (i.e. without voting right).

(11) Any other business

Mikayel Melkumyan (Armenia) intervened very critically, by affirming that, in his opinion, the association is not sufficiently active and that he is in doubt if to remain a member. In his opinion, we should help – for instance – developing countries to promote the seismic safety of structures. For these reasons he did not pay his 2013 dues (consequently, since he is a founding member, should he decide not to resign, he will become a honorary member at the end of 2013, without voting right).

First Y.F. Du, then A. Martelli answered to these criticisms by stressing that *ASSISi* has made and is making all what is in its power and its financial possibilities to promote the use of the anti-seismic systems everywhere, in particular in the developing countries (it shall be remembered that the 2003 conference was held in Yerevan to this purpose, in spite of the fact that this choice was rather risky from the point of view of participation of the *ASSISi* members). Funds for the activities wished by M. Melkumyan are available only in International Organizations. *ASSISi* may only help to get them, by recommending the approval of specific proposals. As to the national associations (e.g. GLIS in Italy), they shall use their limited available funds (if any) to contribute to solve the seismic safety problems at a national level (in Italy and other countries such problems are very severe).

Y.F. Du also reminded that A. Martelli, when he was invited to give a conference at his University in Lanzhou, renounced to the already agreed reimbursement of his international flight ticket costs in favor of the funding of a grant for young Chinese students. This is what single members can do, to provide a contribution.

A. Martelli concluded this discussion by expressing the hope that M. Melkumyan, by understanding what Y.F. Du and he had answered him, reconsiders his position and decides to keep his membership.

(c) MINUTES OF THE FC MEETING

The founding members who attended the meeting or who were represented there through proxies were the following 8 persons:

1. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA) (present);
2. Dusi, Alberto (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli);
3. Forni, Massimo (Italy) (proxy to A. Martelli);
4. Fuller, Keith N.G. (UK) (proxy to A. Martelli);
5. Martelli, Alessandro (Italy) (present);
6. Medeot, Renzo (Italy) (present);
7. Smirnov, Vladimir (Russian Federation) (present);
8. Zhou, Fu Lin (P.R. China) (present).

A. Martelli, on behalf of the Secretary General, informed the participants that there was only one nomination, concerning Renzo Medeot (Italy). The results of the election were the following:

1. Medeot, Renzo (Italy): 6 votes;
2. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA): 1 vote;
3. Invalid ballot papers: 1.

Thus, Renzo Medeot was elected as the new Coordinator of the Foundation Committee.