

**MINUTES OF THE 2015
GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)
AND FOUNDATION COMMITTEE (FC)
MEETINGS**

San Diego, California (USA)

11:00-13:00 on September 11, 2015

**Price Centre, University of California at San Diego, San Diego, California, USA,
during 14WCSI**

(a) AGENDA OF THE GA MEETING

- (1) Welcome addresses (*President and Chairman of the 14th World Conference*).
- (2) Verification of the achievement of the quorum according to Art. 10-7 of the Statutes (*Secretary General*).
- (3) Approval of the agenda (*all active members*).
- (4) Appointment of the Tellers, so as to start elections (item 9) as soon as possible (*President*).
- (5) Present financial situation (*Treasurer*).
- (6) Approval of the financial reports of the years 2013-2015 (*all active members*).
- (7) Proposals concerning the 15th World Conference to be held in 2017 (*concerned active members*).
- (8) If possible, decision concerning the 15th World Conference and appointment of its Chairman, who will become member of the new EC (*all active members*).
- (9) Notification of the Nominations received for both the new President and the new Members of the EC to be elected and reminder of the rules for the election of the latter (*Secretary General*).
- (10) Election of the new President and of the 5 new eligible members of the EC (up to 5 members may be voted for by each active member) (*all active members*).
- (11) Proposals for revising (updating) the ASSISi Statutes, based on the experience achieved, and, consequently, re-founding the Society (*Dr. A. Martelli and maybe other members*).
- (12) Present membership and perspectives for its extension to further Individual and Corporate Ordinary Members (*Secretary General*).
- (13) ASSISi journal (*President, Prof. G. Benzoni and maybe others*).
- (14) Perspectives for the improvement of the financial situation and decisions about the budget for the years 2015-2017 (*all active members*).
- (15) General discussion on recent and planned scientific-technical activities and other issues (*all present members*).
- (16) Any other business (*concerned members*).
- (17) Notification of the names of the new President and of those of the 5 new elected members of the EC (*President*).
- (18) Delivery of the ASSISi Prize and membership certificates and closure of the meeting (*President*).

The GA meeting will be followed by a meeting of the new Executive Committee (EC), chaired by the new President, where he will communicate / confirm the names of the (up to 3) Vice-Presidents, as well as those of the Secretary General, Treasurer and Coordinators of the Territorial Sections.

(b) MINUTES OF THE GA AND EC MEETINGS

(1) Welcome addresses

Welcome addresses to the participants in the GA meeting were given by the *ASSISi* President Fu Lin Zhou (P.R. China) and by the Chairman of 14WCSI Gianmario Benzoni (USA).

(2) 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 Secretary General Massimo Forni (Italy). In fact, according to the Statutes, more than 1/3 of the 82 members with voting right (active members) attended the meeting or were represented by proxies given to active members. More precisely:

- the active members who attended the meeting were the following 46 (AFM = Active Founding Member; IOM = Individual Ordinary Member; COM = Corporate Ordinary Member, with indication of its official representative):

1	Aiken, Ian	IOM	USA
2	Ahmadi, Hamid	IOM	USA
3	Belash, Tatiana	IOM	Russian Federation
4	Benzoni, Gianmario	AFM	USA
5	Black, Cameron	IOM	USA
6	Bubis, Alexander	IOM	Russian Federation
7	Chen, Zheng Qing	IOM	P.R. China
8	Cheng, Xuangsheng	IOM	P.R. China
9	Clemente, Paolo	IOM	Italy
10	Du, Dongsheng	IOM	P.R. China
11	Erdik, Mustafa	IOM	Turkey
12	FIP Industriale	COM (Chiarotto, Donatella)	Italy
13	Forcellini, Davide	IOM	San Marino
14	Forni, Massimo	AFM	Italy
15	Giarlelis, Christos	IOM	Greece
16	Han, Janping	IOM	P.R. China
17	Hua, Xugang	IOM	P.R. China
18	Huang, Xian Gyun	IOM	P.R. China
19	Huang, Zhinwen	IOM	P.R. China
20	JSSI	COM (Saito, Taiki)	Japan
21	Kani, Nagahide	IOM	Japan
22	Komodromos, Petros	IOM	Cyprus
23	Lee, Sam Zhisham	IOM	P.R. China
24	Maramatsu, Akitsugu	IOM	Japan
25	Martelli, Alessandro	AFM	Italy
26	Masaki, Nobuo	IOM	Japan
27	Matsagar, Vasant	IOM	India
28	Medeot, Renzo	AFM	Italy
29	Mezzi, Marco	IOM	Italy

30	Mori, Takahiro	IOM	Japan
31	Morita, Keiko	IOM	Japan
32	Murakami, Katsuhide	IOM	Japan
33	Ricciardi, Giuseppe	IOM	Italy
34	Saitta, Fernando	IOM	Italy
35	Shunguang Wang	IOM	P.R. China
36	Smirnov, Vladimir	AFM	Russian Federation
37	Takayama, Mineo	IOM	Japan
38	Tamura, Kazuo	IOM	Japan
39	Tan, Ping	IOM	P.R. China
40	Wada, Akira	AFM	Japan
41	Wang, Dong	IOM	P.R. China
42	Wenliuhan, Heisha	IOM	P.R. China
43	Whittaker, David	IOM	New Zealand
44	Xin, Ren	IOM	P.R. China
45	Xu, Feng	IOM	P.R. China
46	Zhou, Fu Lin	AFM	P.R. China

• the active members who were represented at the meeting through proxies (given to active members) were the following 15:

1	An, Xiaowen	IOM	P.R. China
2	Cimino, Gianluigi	IOM	Italy
3	Du, Yong Feng	IOM	P.R. China
4	Dusi, Alberto	AFM	Italy
5	Fuller, Keith N. G.	AFM	UK
6	Guan, Quisong	IOM	Italy
7	Kelly, James	AFM	USA
8	Kulak, Ronald	AFM	USA
9	Li, Long An	IOM	P.R. China
10	Li, Xiaodong	IOM	P.R. China
11	Liu, Wei Qing	IOM	P.R. China
12	Marino, Manlio	IOM	Italy
13	Sorace, Stefano	IOM	Italy
14	Terenzi, Gloria	IOM	Italy
15	Yin, Xuejin	AFM	P.R. China

• the active members who were absent and were not represented at the meeting through proxies were the following 21:

1	Beliaev, Vyacheslav S.	AFM	Russian Federation
2	Bergamo Giulia	IOM	Italy
3	Chang, Kuo Chun	AFM	Taiwan
4	DIS	COM (Eriksen)	USA
5	Dimitrovskaya, L.N.	IOM	Russian Federation
6	Giuliani, Gian Carlo	IOM	Italy
7	HOLMES	COM (Park)	New Zealand
8	Liao, Yunkun	IOM	P.R. China
9	Lin, Wang Chen	IOM	Taiwan

10	Marti, Joaquin	AFM	Spain
11	Maurer Söhne	COM (Braun)	Germany
12	Phocas, Marios	IOM	Cyprus
13	Robinson Limited	COM (Canderle)	New Zealand
14	Sannino, Umberto	IOM	Italy
15	Summers, Paul B.	AFM	USA
16	TASI (DID)	COM (Ersavas)	Turkey
17	Uzdin, Alexander	IOM	Russian Federation
18	Vesa, Gianluca	IOM	Italy
19	Wang, Shiang Jung	IOM	Taiwan
20	Yoo, Bong	AFM	South Korea
21	Yang, Xiangdong	IOM	P.R. China

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

(3) Approval of the agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved by all present or represented active members.

(4) Appointment of the Tellers

The Secretary General Massimo Forni (Italy), Taiki Saito (Japan) and Sam Zhisham Lee (P.R. China) were appointed as Tellers. To speed elections, the forms for the vote had been distributed to the participants by Massimo Forni, with the support of Alessandro Martelli (Treasurer) prior to the GA meeting or at its beginning.

(5) Present financial situation

The financial situation was illustrated by the Treasurer, Alessandro Martelli (Italy), by projecting summaries of the 2013 and 2014 final financial reports (which had been already fully approved by the Reviewers of Accounts and have been also made available on the *ASSISi* Internet site) and the summary of the provisional 2015 balance (as it resulted to be on August 21, 2015). Some copies on paper of the aforesaid reports were also made available to the participants.

(6) Approval of the financial reports of the years 2013-2015

The financial reports proposed by the Treasurer were unanimously approved by all present or represented active members.

(7) Proposals concerning the 15th World Conference to be held in 2017

David Whittaker (New Zealand) confirmed the great interest of his country in organizing the next 2017 *ASSISi* World Conference there. However, he mentioned the need for some time before being able to fully confirm it. The end of 2015 was established as deadline to submit the final decision to the new President. In the meantime, the possibility of alternative venues (e.g. Italy or St. Petersburg, Russian Federation) will be evaluated, by Alessandro Martelli and other Italian active members and by Vladimir Smirnov for the Russian Federation. Should New Zealand confirm its intention, this country will remain the first option as the venue for the 2017 *ASSISi* World Conference.

(8) Decision concerning the 15th World Conference and appointment of its Chairman, who will become member of the new EC

According to the previous remarks, it was impossible to decide the site of the 2017 Conference and, obviously, it was also impossible to appoint its Chairman.

(9) Notification of the Nominations received for both the new President and the new Members of the EC to be elected and reminder of the rules for the election of the latter

The Secretary General notified that nominations had been received by him for:

- Gianmario Benzoni (USA), Massimo Forni (Italy), Alessandro Martelli (Italy) and Akira Wada (Japan) for the position of new President,
- Hamid Ahmadi (UK), Paolo Clemente (Italy), Alessandro Martelli (Italy), Vladimir Smirnov (Russian Federation), Mineo Takayama (Japan), Ping Tan (P.R. China) and David Whittaker (New Zealand) for the position of new EC members.

The Secretary General stressed that the rules for election of the new members of the Executive Committee (EC) were reported in the voting sheet, signed and distributed by him to all present active members prior to the meeting or at its beginning (the Statutes of the Society have always been available on the *ASSISi* Internet site and some printed copies were also available at the meeting).

Massimo Forni and Alessandro Martelli informed the participants that they were honored for the Nominations they had received, but that they suggested the participants to vote for other members as new President, also taking into account the fact that Alessandro Martelli (representing Italy) had already been *ASSISi* President (as Founding President).

(10) Election of the new President and of the 5 new eligible members of the EC

The results of the elections for the new President (who, according to the Statutes, will remain in office 4 years, namely to the end of the elections to be held during the 2019 16th World Conference) were the following (valid votes, only one vote was not valid):

1. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA): 44 votes;
2. Wada, Akira (Japan): 18 votes.

Gianmario Benzoni was elected as new *ASSISi* President.

The results of the elections for the 5 EC Members (who, according to the Statutes, will remain in office 2 years, namely to the end of the elections to be held during the 2017 15th World Conference) were the following (valid votes, only one vote was not valid):

1. **Tan, Ping** (P.R. China): 39 votes;
2. **Martelli, Alessandro** (Italy): 34 votes;
3. **Takayama, Mineo** (Japan): 26 votes;
4. **Whittaker, David** (New Zealand): 20 votes
5. **Ahmadi, Hamid** (UK): 15 votes;
6. Clemente, Paolo (Italy): 10 votes;
7. JSSI (Saito, Taiki, Japan): 10 votes;
8. Smirnov, Vladimir (Russian Federation): 10 votes;
9. Wada, Akira (Japan): 10 votes;
10. Forni, Massimo (Italy): 6 votes;
11. Erdik, Mustafa (Turkey): 5 votes;
12. Aiken, Ian (USA) 2 votes.

Since the election of the first 5 members of the above mentioned list respected the conditions prescribed in the Statutes and all of them accepted their elections, they were confirmed by the President as new elected members of the EC (see later).

After the aforesaid elections, since the Past-President (Fu Lin Zhou) and all the 5 elected members of the new EC were present, a short meeting of such a Committee was held (in the presence of all participants in the GA meeting), where the new President (Gianmario Benzoni) confirmed:

- as Secretary General Massimo Forni (Italy);
- as Treasurer Alessandro Martelli (Italy).

The new President also informed the participants that he will soon notify the names of the new Vice-Presidents and the Coordinators of the Territorial Sections (up to 3).

The newly elected EC includes:

1. Benzoni, Gianmario (USA) – President (until the 16th World Conference of 2019) and Chairman of the 14th World Conference;
2. Zhou, Fu Lin (P.R. China) – Past-President (until the 16th World Conference of 2019);
3. Tan, Ping (P.R. China) – elected member;
4. Martelli, Alessandro (Italy) – elected member and appointed Treasurer;
5. Takayama, Mineo (Japan) – elected member;
6. Ahmadi, Hamid (UK) – elected member;
7. Whittaker, David (New Zealand) – elected member;
8. Chairman of the 15th Conference – to be defined (see item 8);
9. Forni, Massimo (Italy) – appointed Secretary General.

Should the 15th World Conference be held in New Zealand and should David Whittaker be appointed as its Chairman (see item 8), he will assume the position in the Committee reserved to the next World Conference Chair and, according to the Statutes, Vladimir Smirnov (Russian Federation) will replace him among the elected members, as first of the non-elected one who belongs to a country different from those of the already elected members.

(11) Proposals for revising (updating) the ASSISi Statutes, based on the experience achieved, and, consequently, re-founding the Society

Alessandro Martelli proposed to re-found ASSISi, by closing the present Society, currently based in Italy, before the end of 2015 and by founding a new one, with updated Statutes during the same period. In fact, although the same name of the Society and the purposes and main features the present Statutes shall be kept unchanged, such Statutes are rather old and the experience of the past years showed that some of their articles should be updated and (in some cases) added or even cancelled. As examples of the aforesaid needs he cited the following:

- according to the present Statutes the legal headquarter of the Society shall remain in Italy (this is not justified anymore and, furthermore, is rather complicated and costly, due to the Italian regulations concerning associations, such as the needs to go to a notary and to pay him for any change of the Statutes, to pay TAV and sometimes taxes, to have a Board of Reviewers of Accounts and to pay them and, previously, a specialist for the check of the accounts themselves, to have a Board of Arbitrators, etc.);
- the present Statutes require that, in order to become again an active member, all past unpaid dues have to be paid (this was found to be detrimental for the finances of the Society, which were improved only when the EC decided that it was possible to become again an active member by limiting the payment for the past unpaid dues to 40 euro. This option, however, is not consistent with the present Statutes);
- in order to facilitate the participation to the 14th Word Conference while raising the number of active members, a large discount of the registration fee was given to the ASSISi active members. As a result, numerous new applications for individual membership were obtained, at the current fee of 30 euro. In Martelli's opinion, the new Statutes should require a payment for more than the single year of the Conference (e.g. 3 years, namely the year of the Conference plus two following years) in order to incentive new memberships while maintaining the advantage in reasonable terms;

- the present Statutes do not impose that the new President shall be of a different continent with respect to that of the previous President (but such a modification appears reasonable, to increase the international features and purposes of the Society).

In addition, although the amount of the annual dues is not regulated by the Statutes and the related decision are left to the EC (and this requirement should remain unchanged, to avoid complications), the aforesaid dues to be paid every year to remain an individual active members are still kept very low (30 euro). This had been decided to make the membership of developing countries easier (however, in spite of this, none of the past members of such countries paid his dues in the past years, thus the amount of the membership dues may be reconsidered).

Finally, Alessandro Martelli proposed that:

- he will take care of the closure of the present Society and the present bank account in Italy within the end of 2015;
- he will help the new Treasurer to open the new Society (to which he will transfer the remaining money after the closure of the present Society and its bank account);
- he will draft a proposal for modifications of the Statutes and will provide it to the President for comments, implementations or modifications (if any) and distribution to the entire EC for its final approval and the appointment of the Founding Members of the new Society.

These three proposals were unanimously approved.

(12) Present membership and perspectives for its extension to further individual and Corporate Ordinary Members

It was stressed that several members are overdue with their membership fees. This also 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 even though 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. In addition an effort should be dedicated to recover past members of the over 20 further countries who are non more active in *ASSISi*.

(13) *ASSISi* journal

Gianmario Benzoni, as editor of SIAPS, stressed that the main problem of the journal is its cost, given its current format (printed and online, managed by an highly reputable publisher). The new EC should consider a more cost effective format in order to provide the necessarily quality assurance while making it a more flexible tool. Since there is still one SIAPS issue already paid by *ASSISi*, Gianmario Benzoni proposed to devote the issue to selected papers presented at the 14th World Conference. He will soon further detail this proposal. With regard to the future, contacts will be undertaken with other existing journals, to check the possibility of a form of collaboration (Alessandro Martelli cited, for instance, the journal Structural Engineering and Health Monitoring).

The GA (including the new EC members) unanimously approved.

(14) Perspectives for the improvement of the financial situation and decisions about the budget for the years 2015-2017

For 2015 this item had already been previously addressed and did not need any further discussion. For 2016 and 2017, decisions can be taken only after the foundation of the new Society.

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

This item had already been previously addressed and did not need any further discussion.

(16) Any other business

In order to update the information concerning the application of anti-seismic systems (seismic isolation, energy dissipation, shape memory alloys, shock transmitters, etc.) to buildings, houses and industrial structures and plants in the various countries and worldwide, Alessandro Martelli (as he also announced during his oral presentation) had prepared two tables, to be filled by a representative of each country for the information regarding such a country and to be sent back to him as soon as possible for the completion of the tables and their publication. Such two new tables are similar to Table 1 published in his key-note lecture and shown in his oral presentation (which was based on the data he had collected at the 2013 13th World Conference in Sochi and thanks to some later personal contacts). The first of such two new tables concerns the numbers of applications of the aforesaid systems for the already completed structures, while the second concerns such numbers for the structures that are still under construction. A third table, concerning the already approved important designs of structures protected by anti-seismic systems which are not yet under construction, may also be prepared by A. Martelli, if sufficient information will be received by him.

During the conference (or prior to it), the aforesaid two tables were personally given by A. Martelli to:

- G. Benzoni and I. Aiken for the USA;
- F.L. Zhou for the P.R. China;
- M. Forni and S. Infanti (FIP Industriale) for Italy;
- N. Kani for Japan;
- H. Ahmadi for UK, Malaysia and Indonesia;
- D. Whittaker for New Zealand;
- V. Smirnov for the Russian Federation and other surrounding countries;
- M. Erdik for Turkey;
- K.C. Chang and some of his collaborators for Taiwan;
- A. Tena Colunga for Mexico;
- C. Giarlelis for Greece.

All of the aforesaid persons promised A. Martelli to soon send him the required information. He will also distribute the two tables to some Honorary Founding Members of countries which were not represented at the 14th World Conference, so as to obtain an updated information as complete as possible.

(17) Notification of the names of the new President and of those of the 5 new elected members of the EC

As mentioned, Fu Lin Zhou confirmed the aforesaid names, namely:

- that of Gianmario Benzoni (USA) as new President;
- those of Ping Tan, Alessandro Martelli, Mineo Takayama, David Whittaker and Hamid Ahmadi as new elected members of the EC.

(18) Delivery of the *ASSISi* Prize and membership certificates and closure of the meeting

The Past President Fu Lin Zhou distributed the *ASSISi* membership certificates, that he had prepared in the P.R. China, to all participants (through representatives of each of such countries). The *ASSISi* prize had already been delivered to Prof. James Kelly during the official dinner, which had been held the night of September 10.

The meeting was closed by both the aforesaid Past President and the new President Gianmario Benzoni. They both warmly thanked the participants, by stressing the success of the Conference from all points of view: organization, participation (over 120 experts from 18 countries), high quality of the papers (75) and presentations. All participants agreed on these evaluations.

Gianmario Benzoni also thanked his collaborators, who strongly contributed to the success of the Conference.

(c) MINUTES OF THE FC MEETING

Based on a proposal of Alessandro Martelli, Akira Wada (Japan) was unanimously and openly elected as the new Coordinator of the Foundation Committee (FC). Alessandro Martelli stressed the very important role of such a Committee, according to the Statutes, especially in this transition phase from the existing to the new *ASSISi*. Akira Wada was very happy to accept this role and promised his strong collaboration to the EC.