

Formation of International Materials Research Committee Moves Closer Statutes Approved at 1988 MRS Fall Meeting

During the 1988 Fall Meeting of the Materials Research Society, the International Committee met to continue discussions of a coordinated international effort through an International Materials Research Committee. The meeting was extremely well attended with 33 participants from 11 countries—Argentina, Australia, China, West Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan (China), the United Kingdom, and the United States. After a review of the activities of several of the international groups, the Committee discussed and unanimously approved a set of statutes.

Reports from the meeting clearly illustrated that the "MRS-style" meeting has become a model for others, and "MRS-like" societies are being organized in countries and geographical regions around the world.

The meeting opened with presentations describing worldwide activities and meetings in materials research. The European Materials Research Society continues to hold two meetings a year in the Spring and Fall with 1988 attendances of 750 and 480, respectively, as well as six summer school courses. In addition, 11 networks have been created that address specific materials research topics and coordinate the efforts of scientists from many European countries. Dr. Werner Lutze of the Hahn-Meitner Institut in Berlin described the Twelfth MRS Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Disposal, which hosted over 300 attendees in October 1988, in Berlin. The proceedings of this meeting will be published by MRS as part of the MRS Symposium Proceedings series.

Prof. Sōmiya reported on the MRS International Meeting on Advanced Materials held in Tokyo in which over 1,000 papers were presented in 21 symposia. Prof. Gamo reported on the International Conference on Ion Beam Modification of Materials, also held in Tokyo, for which there were 300 attendees from 22 countries.

Prof. Heng-De Li reviewed the MRS programs in China and described the second C-MRS meeting which was held in Wuhan with 500 in attendance. C-MRS plans an international meeting in 1990 in Beijing. In India, Professor C.N.R. Rao is organizing an MRS-India with the enthusiastic endorsement of several hundred colleagues. Similar, preliminary organizational efforts were reported from Australia, Taiwan (China), and Mexico.

The most important accomplishment of the meeting was the unanimous approval

of the Statutes for the International Materials Research Committee. The discussion focused on the proposed relationship between the number of votes that an "adhering body" might have and their financial obligation to support activities of the committee. After extended discussion, the assembled group adopted a procedure by which there would be three categories of participation with one, two or three votes depending on the level of participation. Initially, each adhering body will be in the same category and have the same number of votes. The proposed statutes were modified from the discussion and then unanimously approved by the individuals present. The approved statutes will be distributed to all the participants with final approval expected at the next meeting to be held during the 1989 MRS Fall Meeting.

The development of the Statutes marks a significant step in coordinating activities in materials research throughout the world, and it should enable enhancement and improvement of the already active international collaborations that are typical of the Materials Research Society.

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Representatives from 11 countries meet during the 1988 MRS Fall Meeting in Boston to develop the statutes for an International Materials Research Committee.