



MODELLING AND SIMULATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.30PM, 14 JULY 2009

Held in conjunction with MODSIM09
Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns, Australia

PRESENT

Geoff Adams, Neil Gribble, David Mayer, Roger Crapp, John Norbury, Roger Braddock, Freeman Cook, Mick Hartcher, Shawn Laffan, Alan Clift, Wendy Merritt, John Butcher, Robert Beauwens, Ernest Mund, Bob Anderssen, Andre Zerger, Felix Chan, Vladislav Todorov, Dora Marinova, David Allen, Christine Lim, Les Oxley, Frank Scrimgeour, Chia-Lin Chang, Michael McAleer, Sandhya Samarasingha, Amphun Chaiboonchoe, Jacob Stolk, Barry Croke, Tom Pagano, Malcolm McPhee, Markus Hegland, Glenn Fulford, Anthony Dekker, Magda Mohssen, Robert Argent, David Post, Tony Weber, Shahbaz Khan, Tony Jakeman, Lachlan Newham, Susan Cuddy; plus 3 IMACS members

APOLOGIES

Tim Peterson (Public Officer)

MINUTES OF THE 2008 AGM

held on 4 December 2008 were approved.

Moved: Tony Weber, Seconded Al Bart
Motion carried unanimously

Most actions arising are reported on later in these minutes. Other activities include: Meeting with Simulation Industry of Australia – this is a very large and well-organised group. The Executive met with them in late December and both groups have agreed to maintain an informal dialogue (mainly to ensure that we complement each others activities).

Corporate membership – while this was discussed as a way of gaining sponsorship, good sponsorship was received for MODSIM09 without it. On the backburner.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President, Tony Jakeman, reported on several activities that were foreshadowed at the 2008 AGM, and other MSSANZ happenings. Some key points to note:

- One of our distinguished medalists, Sir Clive Granger, died this year. An award is to be named in his honour – see later agenda item.

- Noted that impact factor for the journal ‘Environmental Modelling and Software’ is now 2.659 (up from 1.992 in 2006). Tony believes this is largely due to (i) scope tightening – fewer straight application papers (unless they provide insights) with more generic articles which have greater impact; and (ii) good body of reviewers (great support from the MODSIM and iEMSs communities)
- IMACS run 3 journals. Michael McAleer and Les Oxley have been editing special issues of one of them for the last few MODSIMs.
- MODSIM proceedings (up to 2003) are now listed by Thomson-Reuters (their current policy is restricted to printed copy, and 2003 was the last printed proceedings). Waiting for them to upgrade their policy to accept online proceedings; alternative is that we print one set and send to them.
- Corporate member of the Society is being investigated by the Executive.

Tony thanked Peter Manger, Tony Weber and Lachlan Newham for their great work on WCMT and the members also expressed their vote of thanks.

WCMT (Web Conference Management Tool)

Lachlan Newham felt that the Society should make further investment in WCMT for 2011. The main developments since MODSIM07 were to improve the functionality for stream organizers; next is to upgrade the convenors’ tools. It was noted that there is co-investment with iEMSs in WCMT maintenance and development, and keen to expand the community (e.g. IMACS).

Noting that there is significant IT knowledge required to host WCMT, MSSANZ has purchased a server so that WCMT can be hosted from MSSANZ in future.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Lachlan Newham tabled a draft set of accounts (statement of income & expenditure and financial position) at 30 June 2009.

Motion: “that the financial statements be accepted.”

Moved – Lachlan Newham, Seconded – Susan Cuddy

Motion carried unanimously

The Treasurer has been investigating the establishment of a Sinking Fund to (1) cover a catastrophic failure of a conference and (b) to have a steady stream of income for activities such as WCMT.

Motion as amended:

“that a new Clause 36 be added to the Constitution to read:

- (1) A sinking fund is to be established and maintained for the Association by the Treasurer.
- (2) The fund is to be limited to capital-guaranteed investments not exceeding two-years duration.
- (3) Interest earnings from the sinking fund will be allocated in equal proportion to the (i) sinking fund for reinvestment and (ii) funds of the Association.
- (4) The capital of the sinking fund can only be withdrawn in emergency financial situations. Withdrawal of the funds requires approval of all of the following (a)

President, (b) Majority of committee, (c) majority of Fellows and Biennial Medallists of the Association who at the time are active members.

Moved – Tony Weber, Seconded – Bob Anderssen

Motion as amended carried unanimously

AWARDS

The 2009 awards were tabled for the record (2009 student awards will be tabled at 2010 AGM).

- a) 2009 Biennial Medallists
 - i) Blair Nancarrow, Australian Centre for Water in Society, CSIRO Land and Water (nominated Susan Cuddy, seconded Rebecca Letcher)
 - ii) Dr Francis Chiew, CSIRO Land and Water (nominated Neil Viney, seconded Jai Vaze)
 - iii) Professor Cheng Hsiao, Professor of Economics, University of Southern California, USA (nominated Michael McAleer, seconded Les Oxley)
- b) 2009 Early Career Research Excellence (ECRE)
 - i) Professor Chia-Lin Chang (nominated Les Oxley, seconded Michael McAleer)
 - ii) Dr Chris Pettit (nominated Lachlan Newham, seconded David Pullar)
 - iii) Dr Shawn Laffan (nominated Andre Zerger, seconded Lachlan Newham)

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Nominations were received prior to the meeting in accordance with the Constitution. These nominations were endorsed by the meeting.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| President: | Tony Jakeman | |
| Vice President: | Michael McAleer | |
| Secretary: | Susan Cuddy | |
| Treasurer: | Wendy Merritt | |
| Public Officer: | Tim Peterson | |
| Committee: | Felix Chan | Bob Anderssen |
| | Les Oxley | Andre Zerger |
| | Tony Weber | David Post |
| | Dora Marinova | Robert Argent |
| | Christine Lim | |

Awards Committee: Tony Jakeman (chair), Dora Marinova, Les Oxley.

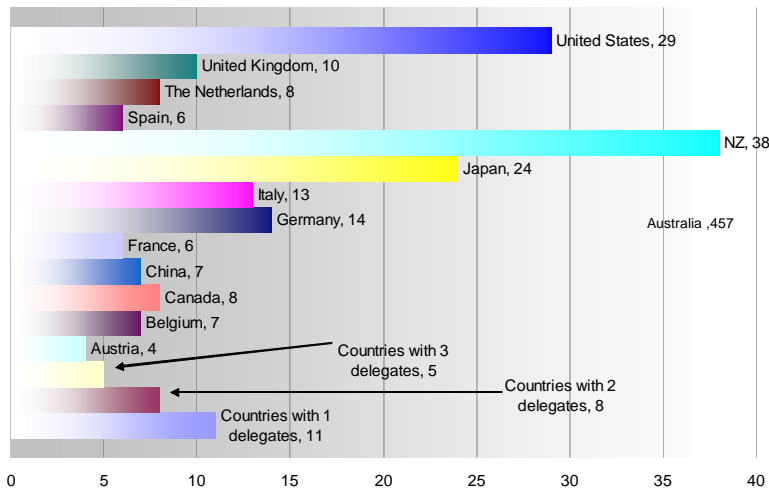
The position of Public Officer is ongoing, until such time as the Public Officer stands down.

MODSIM 2009 REPORT

David Mayer, as co-convenor, thanked everyone for coordinating sessions and papers. The conference received about \$50K worth of sponsorship, with closing drinks on Friday courtesy of sponsors.

- Number of papers - 685
- Number of delegates – 690

- 75 sessions



- 1 - Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Colombia, Greece, Iran, Nigeria, Portugal, Scotland, Slovenia, Turkey, Uruguay
- 2 - Czech Republic, Finland, Hong Kong, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Caledonia, Sweden
- 3 - Malaysia, Norway, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand

Bob Anderssen, as Chair of the Program Committee, moved a vote of thanks by acclamation to David Mayer, both for his convening of MODSIM 2009 and his contribution to the Society over many years.

Tony Jakeman, as President of the Society, moved a vote of thanks by acclamation to Neil Gribble, for his contribution to the success of MODSIM 2009, and also his contribution to the Society over many years.

MODSIM 2011 BRIEFING

Felix Chan and Dora Marinova are co-convenors of MODSIM 2011 which will be held in Perth in early 2011.

MODSIM 2013 BRIEFING

The President reported that negotiations were progressing with UNSW (Jason Evans) for the staging of MODSIM 2013 at the Sydney Convention Centre.

FORESHADOWED MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

To ease registration management, MODSIM07 removed the reduced member registration fee (membership being determined by participation in previous MODSIM). Note that this motion is not intended to do away with student fees

Motion

‘that setting of MODSIM registration fee is independent of membership status’

Moved – David Post, Seconded – Lachlan Newham

Motion carried unanimously

2. MEMBERSHIP OF MAILING LIST

The Society has been receiving requests to join its mailing list from people who have not attended MODSIM (and are thus not members). This could expose the mailing list to unscrupulous use.

Motion

‘that the MSSANZ emailing list be open to non-members if they are proposed and seconded by members who have published in MODSIM proceedings’

Moved – Susan Cuddy, Seconded – Tony Dekker

Motion carried unanimously

3. COMPOSITION OF 2010/2011 AWARDS COMMITTEE

The President foreshadowed a proposal to extend the Committee to include more disciplinary fields (e.g. ecology, social science, hydrology). Members agreed with this sentiment, on the proviso that the members were drawn from MSSANZ Fellows who were active in the Society.

Motion

‘that the current Awards Committee have the power to co-opt up to two more members taking account of disciplinary structure and the balance of the Committee’

Moved – Roger Braddock, Seconded – Freeman Cook

Motion carried unanimously

4. OPTIONS FOR PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AT MODSIM FOR AUTHORS WITHOUT FULL PAPERS

MODSIM 09 was the first time that abstracts were published without full papers. The impact of this was discussed at the meeting, with an alternative suggestion that poster papers be introduced to attract researchers, particularly from industry and those disciplines that don't have a culture of full papers. Members were strongly of the opinion that one of the main attractions of MODSIM is the quality of the referred papers.

Motion as amended

‘that MODSIM introduce poster sessions which only require a one-page abstract (published in proceedings) and poster, while retaining the requirement that an oral presentation requires submission of a full referred paper’

Moved – David Post, Seconded – David Mayer

Members agreed in principle that the different style of presentation had merit and requested that a working group investigate the practicality (such as changes required to WCMT, refereeing process). A working group was formed of Andre Zenger, Dora Marinova, David Post and Lachlan Newham.

BUSINESS ON NOTICE

1. PROPOSAL FOR CLIVE GRANGER AWARD

Clive Granger was professor at Universities of Canterbury and Melbourne, and had been an active and very distinguished member of the Society, a Biennial Medallist in 2001 and attended most sessions at MODSIM07.

Members gave an in-principle agreement for a Clive Granger Award (perhaps a student prize, one of the Biennial Medals?) and referred it to the Awards Committee to make the decision, as members were not aware of the implications.

2. IEMSS CONGRESS, 5-8 JULY 2010

David Swayne, a longtime and active supporter of MODSIM, is convenor of the 6th biennial congress of iEMSS, the International Environmental Modelling and Simulation Society, the international sister of MSSANZ. Members were encouraged to support this congress.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Tony Weber moved a vote of thanks to Lachlan Newham for his services to the Society, and his financial management of MODSIM 09.

Moved – Tony Weber, Seconded – Tony Jakeman
Motion carried unanimously

Meeting closed 6.25p.