

Report VP Meetings, Policy Council Meeting Winter 2011

2011 Washington, DC

The 2011 conference will be held at the Hyatt/Crystal City in Washington, DC, and a Call-for-Papers is out. Submission deadline for papers is March 21. Local organisation is running smoothly.

2012 St. Gallen, Switzerland

Executive Director Roberta Spencer has been in St. Gallen to discuss with local organisers Markus Schwaninger and Stefan Grösser. See report of the local organisers.

Conferences from 2013 on

After the Policy Council vote from spring 2010 the society has a strong mandate to implement a default conference site structure. Starting with North-America in 2013, conference sites should alternate between a default location there and in Europe, as long as no strong proposal from another location is brought forward to the Policy Council and approved therein.

(For now) as the default site for North-America, Boston has been approved by the policy council. In close correspondence with the site selection committee, the Executive Director of the society has elaborated a proposal to hold the 2013 conference at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge Hotel, which made an attractive offer (see report by Roberta Spencer).

In 2014 the conference site should be in Western Europe. The society has established a solid working relation with Hyatt hotels and has been in contact with Paris and Berlin. The Paris Hyatt is actually at Charles-de-Gaulle airport: very convenient for travelling but it is not really Paris (approx. 25 km from the city centre). The Berlin Hyatt is right in the centre of town but this means there is some travelling involved from the airport to there, plus most international flights to Germany go to either Frankfurt or Munich, meaning that one more stop-over is necessary. There is also a German Hyatt in Mainz which is close to Frankfurt airport but Mainz is not a really big city (but very nice with a lot of monuments etc.).

Conference site selection committee

The Conference Selection Committee was set up in 2008 "For Conference decisions, Andreas Groessler, VP Meetings, should pick a set of people to do this in the future." Term of duty is 2011-2012 and the most important task right now is to find/determine a site for 2014. Committee members: Andreas Groessler, chair; Roberta Spencer; James Lyneis; Bob Eberlein; Enzo Bivona.

Other issues

In autumn 2011, the society president (Rogelio Oliva) acknowledged Enzo Bivona as Assistant Vice President for Meetings on my request.

Conference fee: since the default site policy occupies a lot of resources we have abandoned the discussion of changing conference fees for the moment.

The Society Program Oversight Committee is currently collecting a list of recommendations regarding the successful organisation of a scientific program.

At the 2011 Chapter meeting at the Seoul conference, all chapter and SIG representatives voted unanimously to amend the default site policy into a three year schedule: first year: North America, second year: Western Europe, third year: Rest of World.

Andreas Größler, 09/02/2011