

Minutes

The 38th IWWFBB Steering Committee Meeting

Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 8, 2023

Participants: Yonghwan Kim, Harry Bingham, Kevin Maki, Bob Beck, Xinshu Zhang, Peter Wellens, Alexander Korobkin, Tanya Khabakhpasheva, John Grue, Alessandro lafrati

Online: Masoud Hayatdavoodi, Sime Malenica

1. Summary of the 38th IWWFBB by Kevin Maki and Bob Beck

Kevin and Bob reported that 53 Abstracts were submitted and 47 accepted. 35 participated in person and the distribution was: North America (7), S. America (1), Europe (15), Asia (9), Australia (2), Israel (1). 24 registered online, with 8 complimentary (including Nick and David). The online distribution was: Europe (11), China (6), Australia (2), India (2), Iran (1), Russia (1), North America (1, JNN). Remote participation makes it a challenge to predict the costs and revenue accurately, but they expect to be quite close to the budget. The cost of remote registration looks high, but it accurately reflects the associated percentage of fixed costs. It was noted that it is important to get the registration process going as early as possible given the current situation for visas in many countries and general difficulties in travel. No support was available from ONR Global this year since they only support global events. Given the very short time to arrange the event, no extra support was obtained besides staff hours from UM. Again, due to the short time frame, other locations that were initially investigated turned out to be too expensive. The committee expressed great appreciation for Kevin and Bob's willingness to step in at the last minute and their ability to put together a fantastic 38th workshop.

2. Status of preparations for the 39th IWWFBB in Scotland by Masoud Hayatdavoodi, April 14-17, 2024

Masoud gave a slide presentation of next year's event which will be held at Fairmont St. Andrews, across the river from Dundee. The best connection is through Edinburgh airport which is about 1.5 hours away with public bus and taxi service. A dedicated bus will also be provided at some fixed times. This is the birthplace of golf, a scenic location, with comfortable rooms, a spa, a swimming pool, and of course golf. The first announcement will go out Sept. 1, registration opens Dec. 1, submissions are due on Jan 8, accepted abstracts will be announced on Jan. 26, and early bird registration will close on Feb. 29. The website is up with all information including the partners program and a description of the IWWFBB dedicated tartan. Support has been secured from: U. Dundee, Harbin U., SAIC, Dundee & Angus, and BV. Masoud also gave the presentation at the banquet dinner.

3. Status of preparations for the 40th workshop in Shanghai by Xinshu Zhang

Xinshu reported that the 40th workshop will be held at a hotel in the Centre of Shanghai with easy access to both airports. SJTU is very supportive, and funding has also been secured from some research organizations. Both Easter and Orthodox Easter are on Sunday April 20, 2025. The most likely dates are May 11-14, but this will be finalized over the coming year.

4. **Future Workshops. Outstanding/new bids:**

Outstanding bids to host the workshop are:

- Sime Malenica Yannis Chatjigeorgiou (Balkans, Europe).
- Peter Wellens (Delft University, the Netherlands)

Both Sime and Peter confirmed their interest in hosting. The 41st Workshop was awarded to Sime and Yannis after a brief discussion.

5. **IWWWFB website and other organizational issues**

- **Status of the RWWWFB.** Yonghwan reported that things are going well despite some early email hitches. The website is going smoothly. The server is however in the US, which may be a problem at some point since they have had some technical difficulties. Backup is being done by Yonghwan's son. We discussed using Dropbox or another service to backup the site in the cloud, but this may not be necessary yet. Yonghwan agreed to look into buying the domain name. He also noted that maintenance is currently done by students who are by their nature transient. We should continue to discuss this topic.
- **Hybrid format of the IWWWFB for the future.** Should we require all presenting authors to attend physically? John Grue noted that before Covid there was no flexibility. If you did not show up and present, your abstract was removed from the web page. There was general agreement that it is important to show up in person and support for returning to the original procedure. Sasha noted that there is a general pressure to open meetings up to the public and make them available online. He suggested to open the online participation to everyone. Masoud noted that they plan to have all presentations in person. He feels that once we open the online possibility, it will be a recipe for reducing the already small size of the event to below a critical mass. Alessandro noted the inherent conflict between limiting the participants to submitted authors and trying to open it up to everyone. Yonghwan noted that the size of a single recorded talk is .5 to 1 GB, which would quickly become unmanageable to store and preserve. After some discussion, we agreed that in the future, all speakers should attend in person. If the host decides to accommodate it, co-authors and special guests are allowed to participate online.

6. **Scope of research/abstracts**

- Inclusion of new fields, e.g. machine learning, AI schemes? Yonghwan raised the concern that more and more papers will be submitted involving AI and

machine learning. Sasha noted that this is just a tool and as long as its application is appropriate to our theme, it should be fine. We should however, be careful not to let abstracts through that are too focused on the tool instead of the application/physics.

7. **AOB:** There was no other business.