

Minutes

The 40th IWWFBB Steering Committee Meeting

Shanghai, China, May 12, 2025

Participants: Yonghwan Kim, Harry Bingham, Xinshu Zhang, Sime Malenica, Peter Wellens, Masoud Hyatdavoodi, Michael Meylan, Mostafa Amini-Afshar, Jun Zang, Alexander Korobkin, Adi Kurniawan, Dezhi Ning, Simone Michele, Siming Zheng.

1. Summary of the 40th IWWFBB by Xinshu Zhang.

Xinshu reported that 79 abstracts were submitted with 58 initially accepted. One cancelled and Xinshu dropped his to allow for a better program, so he ended up with 56 presentation. Talks were set to 25 minutes each. He got several quotes and was able to get a good deal here at the Mandarin Oriental Pudong Hotel. He obtained sponsorship from SSSRI (a subsidiary of China COSCO Shipping), BV, MARIC (Marine Design and Research Ins.), Hohai University, INFO Inc. (Qualisys), and SJTU. There are 81 registered participants plus 4 people who are not staying at the hotel. There are no paying online registrants but free attendance was provided to Nick Newman, David Evans, Bernard Molin, Masagi Kashiwagi, and a few others. Jun noted that Nick recently turned 90 years old and we agreed to send him some pictures.

2. Status of preparations for the 41st IWWFBB in the Balkans by Sime Malenica and Yannis Chatjigeorgiou.

Sime reported that after considering several locations on the coast of Croatia, he decided to hold the workshop at Plitvice lakes in the same hotel where he hosted the 22nd workshop. It will be April 26-29, 2026. Plitvice is 2 or 3 hours driving from Zagreb or Split and transfers will be organized. The fee will be a bit less than this year's. Sasha asked what about Yannis? Sime replied that he has been very positive all along but due to his new position as Rector of NTUA, he has not been much in touch nor attended the workshop the past 6 or 7 years. Sime will organize it together with a colleague from Zagreb.

3. Status of preparations for the 42nd workshop in Delft by Peter Wellens.

Peter reported that Delft has proven to be difficult in terms of finding a big enough hotel, so he is talking to several hotels at locations close to the shore. Kurhaus Scheveningen on the beach looks like a good option with easy access from the airport.

4. Future Workshops. Outstanding/new bids:

- Hugh Wolgamot, and Adi Kurniawan, Perth, Australia.
- Amini-Afshar/Bingham/Shao, Denmark.

Mostafa Amini-Afshar confirmed that DTU would like to host the workshop in either 2028 or 2029. We discussed whether the 43rd workshop should be in Australia or Denmark. Yonghwan noted that

in recent years we have generally had a schedule of 2 years in Europe followed by one in either Asia, Australia or the US. Adi confirmed that Hugh was happy to host either the 43rd or 44th, with a preference for the 43rd. Mike argued for Australia. After a vote, it was decided to award the 43rd workshop to U. Western Australia.

Dezhi Ning put in a bid to host a future workshop in Dalian, China.

5. IWWWFB website and other organizational issues

- **Status of the website and RWWWFB**

Yonghwan reported that he's been having trouble with the website host. It was frozen for some time and he was not able to make changes. They finally opened it again after some debate. The host requires two payments, one for hosting and one for maintenance, totaling around \$300 per year. Sasha and Sime suggested that the fee could be paid by the current host. Yonghwan replied that the money is not the problem, it's the uncertainty of the host who seem to want to increase the rates and he would like to find a more stable solution. We discussed the possibility of hosting at a university or finding a more reliable company, and agreed to look into options and report back to him with ideas. This issue is part of why he has not been able to run any RWWWFB seminars recently. It was noted that Bob Beck had some health issues recently but is recovering well. Yonghwan has also had some difficulty to find appropriate speakers. He invited Rodney Eatock-Taylor, but he declined. Sime suggested having just one speaker for each seminar, and avoiding a regular schedule to make it more flexible. We agreed to consider and suggest new speakers to Yonghwan who will try to start it up again this year.

- **Tuck-Newman-Evans Fellowships**

The new fellowship process was very smooth. Xinshu will present the winners with an unframed certificate at the banquet. We discussed what the official requirements are to apply for the scholarships. We confirmed that it is restricted to registered students and young researchers who are within 3 years of the award of their PhD. We agreed that the instructions should clearly state that the application length should be maximum 2 pages. This will be added to the web page.

6. AOB:

- Masoud noted that developing the local website is a big job. Can we standardize this on the iwwwfb.org site? The chairs suggested that it may be better to just pass the local web page data to the next host to avoid login and access issues. Mostafa suggested that we could try to find volunteers in the community to take over some of the administrative work. Yonghwan replied that this would require access and is probably better left to the local hosts.
- Masoud noted that we agreed last year that we should have (max.) 55 presentations and that the days seem a bit too long. This year there are 56, so only one more than the recommendation and thereby within the norm of previous workshops. It's difficult to strike the right balance, but we agreed that the hosts need to have the freedom to do their best.