



10th APPEC General Assembly

November 7, 2016
Stockholm, Sweden

Minutes

Present

Lars Bergstrom, Stan Bentvelsen, Thomas Berghöfer (General Secretary), Johannes Blümer, Catherine DeClercq, Eckhard Elsen (observer CERN), Timo Enqvist, Laurent Favart, Fernando Ferroni, Sylvie Leray, Mario Martinez, Teresa Montaruli, Janet Seed, Christian Stegmann, Livius Trache, Andy Williams (observer ESO), Frank Linde (Chairman), Job de Kleuver (Secretariat).

Invited: Tove Andersson (until point 2), Mark Hempel, Francesca Moglia, Stavros Katsanevas, Antonio Masiero (SAC Chairman).

Apologies

The chairman received apologies for their absence from, Halina Abramowitz (observer ECFA), Berry Giebels, Antonio Bueno, Iliana Brancus (replaced in this meeting by Livius Trache), Anne-Isabelle Etienne (CEA, replaced in this meeting by Sylvie Leray), Panu Jalas (replaced in this meeting by Timo Enqvist) and Mario Pimenta.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The chairman opened the meeting and thanked the Swedish Research Council for their hospitality and the arrangements of this meeting.

The agenda was adopted.

2. Short presentations by Tove Andersson and Lars Bergstrom

Tove Andersson, secretary of the large infrastructure committee of the Swedish Research Council (VR) welcomed APPEC in Stockholm and gave a short introduction of the research infrastructure policy and organisation in Sweden. Main projects are ESS and MAX IV and the contributions to international facilities like CERN and ESO.

Lars Bergstrom introduced the Swedish Astroparticle physics programme. The main activities are Fermi-LAT, IceCube, Xenon-100&1T, iPTF/Zwicky and POGO+/eAstrogam and smaller activities in CTA, CMB (SPIDER), LSST and GAIA/THEIA satellites.

The main funding channels are VR, universities, the Swedish space board and the Wallenberg foundation (private fund for fundamental research).

3. Approval of minutes of the 9th GA, June 26, 2016

The minutes were approved.

4. Report of the Chairman

The Chairman reported on recent developments. A letter of support had been sent for the H2020 proposal DULIA/underground labs. Unfortunately this project and also the IGRAINE proposal (Gravitational Waves) were rejected by EU.

The GA approved that Bergstrom will be the APPEC representative in the ISAPP Board and will report on our GA meetings.

The GA also agreed that it would be useful for APPEC and ASTRONET to invite each other's chair as observer in their GA meetings.

Furthermore the GA approved to team up in IPOGG for outreach activities in particle and astroparticle physics. An IPOGG/APPEC outreach meeting is planned for 15/16 February 2017 in Rome. The GA endorsed the proposal for the composition of the ECFA R&D-panel. For APP-related R&D Els Koffeman (Nikhef, KM3NeT technical coordinator) was proposed.

Up to now there is no firm news about the progress of the ATTRACT initiative. Marcus Nordberg is very active in promoting it and the EU is taking a positive stance. The EIROforum partners are preparing the proposal to the EU. In the first stage of ATTRACT, there is not yet such a board of community representatives, other than the Independent Scientific Advisory Committee (IC). ATTRACT seeks well established detector and imaging experts from the different fields and networks and Linde has already proposed Teresa Monteruli as a member of the board. This IC will be created sometime next summer. Sergio Bertolucci is the Coordinator.

Linde reported promising progress in some projects: the Chinese PandaX, Xenon1T and DarkSide. Advanced Virgo is near a formal start in early 2017. KM3NeT received a H2020 subsidy for strengthening this ESFRI-project in governance and some other topics. IceCube-Gen2 is receiving serious attention from NSF. The CTA site negotiations are on track and waiting for an ESO-council decision in December.

5. Towards the new APPEC roadmap

The Chairman reported about the process and progress towards the new APPEC roadmap since the last GA meeting. The GA unanimously approved the roadmap recommendations.

The first draft of the 'moneyplot' was discussed at length. It is a global scheme to show what projects come first and what comes later. Costing accuracy is of the order of 10% and uncertainties should be mentioned in the captions, including the implementation of a complete new project in the next decade. Linde, Katsanevas and Masiero will prepare a new plot, including investments and exploitation and good captions. This plot will be sent to the GA for comments and conclusion.

The Chairman introduced the first draft of the full roadmap document. He apologizes for the missing text about Dark Energy. The GA endorsed the general approach. Masiero, Katsanevas and Linde will iterate and send a final draft to the GA for approval.

Linde invites the GA to send him pictures of the experiments and their collaborators. STFC communications and outreach will finalize the document after approval.

APPEC will organize a launch event for the new Roadmap in Brussels to get the attendance of EU. During the ICRI conference in Cape Town De Kleuver successfully invited Robert-Jan Smits (EU DG Research) and Henna Virkkunen (member European Parliament and ITRE committee) for the launch event. A date in April/May 2017 will be planned based on their availability as soon as the roadmap document is in its final stage of preparation.

6. SAC renewal

The GA approved the proposal to renew the composition of the SAC in two steps and also agreed on the first step planned for the summer of 2017 (after completion of the roadmap). In the next GA the appointment of a new chair (summer 2017) and the second step for renewal (in 2018) will be discussed. The GA also decided to discuss a new mandate for the SAC before summer 2017.

7. Theory Center

One of the approved recommendations in the new roadmap is the creation of an APPEC Theory Center. The GA supported the idea to organize an open call for bids or letters of intent. Organizations are able to present their interest to host an APPEC Theory Center. Suggestions by GA members will be included in the final call text. The call will open early 2017.

8. European and global issues

Seed reported about the last APIF meeting. The main items on the agenda were the approval of the final report of APIF, and the election of Professor Roger Blandford as new chair for three

years starting 1 January 2017, with the secretariat for the meetings to be hosted by the Kavli Institute.

Linde reported on the 2nd APPEC-ASTRONET workshop 'Towards European coordination of the CMB programme' in September in Florence. The meeting was very well attended by astronomers and physicists from US and Europe. A written report is in preparation. The focus for a space experiment is CORE. For a ground based experiment there is lots of discussion. It is important to form a collaboration for a 4th generation ground-based project. This could be a European facility or a collaboration with an US initiative. This collaboration should be formed before the next workshop on 7-8 September 2017 (including an MoU). Another suggestion is to apply for a H2020 CMB-S4 design study (deadline spring 2017).

De Kleuver reported about the start of the update of the ESFRI-roadmap (deadline 31 August 2017). The only candidate from APP is Einstein Telescope (ET) however the GA agreed that it is too early to apply in 2017, as initiatives should show in their proposal maturity on several aspects. Also a global view of GW initiatives and third generation interferometers is needed.

9. Outreach

Ruth McAvinia left STFC (and APPEC) recently. The chairman thanked her for her excellent coverage of the Town meeting, the regular newsletters, the preparations for the new APPEC website and the social media exposure with about 26,000 followers.

Since Outreach is a key APPEC activity, best located in the UK it is proposed to hire a new communications officer. STFC needs a decision on whether to recruit to extend the APPEC support. The costs are around 15-20,000 GBP per year.

In the interim STFC guarantees to proceed with the roadmap finalization, a new APPEC flyer and the website transition. The GA approved this proposal and agreed that STFC will hire and host a new part time APPEC communications officer for two years. [In January 2017 STFC appointed Corinne Mosese]

10. Election next Chair and General Secretary

Seed explained the voting rules for the elections for the next Chair and General Secretary. 11 countries are represented in the meeting with one vote per country.

Stegmann shared his worries about the funding for APPEC in Germany. The new chair should support the continuation of APPEC activities in Germany.

The GA elected Antonio Masiero as its next chair for two years starting 1 January 2017.

The GA elected Job de Kleuver as its next General Secretary for two years starting 1 January 2017. Both accepted their election.

11. Report General Secretary

The General Secretary presented the current situation in APPEC. The Czech society for astroparticle physics is just founded and will approach APPEC soon.

The GA agreed to continue the observer status of organizations in Poland and Croatia.

The call for funds 2016 was sent to partners in October. The balance at the end of 2016 will be close to the 48k€ as at the end of 2015.

Dr. Francesca Moglia joined FC DESY beginning of October as the new head of FC DESY.

He also reported about the activities of the Functional Centers in 2016, including the successful Lake Baikal Three Messenger Conference organized by FC-DESY.

For the workplan 2017 priority setting is needed due to limited resources and the need to ensure that adequate effort is put into implementing the recommendations of the roadmap. In addition, the GA agreed that priority should be given to meetings and events, the call for the Theory Center, an inventory of training activities for students (including ISAPP).

12. Upcoming topics for 2017

The GA requested the JS to prepare an update of the MoU. Ideas for improvements are welcome. Other suggestions for change are: look at the roles and task distributions of the functional centres, the status of observers and election procedure for vice chair.

Part of the implementation plan of the roadmap will certainly be new APPEC common calls. Two important questions are: who is interested to take part in the organization of common calls and what are possible topics for common calls (e.g. R&D for CMB, R&D for GW, R&D for neutrinos).

13. AOB

The GA agreed the proposal to fix all GA meetings in 2017 in early 2017. One of the meetings will be in Barcelona.

Berghoefer and Linde were thanked for all their efforts for APPEC in recent years.