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Aims, objectives, structure and activity of IMEKO - the instrumentation and measurement confederation

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Abstract

IMEKO is a non-governmental federation of 36 national Member Organisations. The Member Organisations are scientific/technical societies or committees. They include representatives of metrological institutions, higher education institutions, industry and users of instruments.

This communication will deal shortly with the objectives of the Confederation, will inform on its structure, will highlight IMEKO publications and will present an overview on the activities of the 23 Technical Committees.

The fundamental objectives of IMEKO are: (i) the promotion of international interchange of scientific and technical information in the field of measurement and instrumentation; (ii) the enhancement of international co-operation among scientists and engineers from research and industry.

From the defined general principles IMEKO can be regarded as a global network, a forum where instrument makers, users, research and development experts, legal metrology scientists and university professors meet and exchange ideas.

IMEKO's responsibility is to consider the challenges of measurement science and technology coming from important application areas and to form visions for the future development of human society.

The permanent organs of IMEKO are the General Council, the Secretariat, the Advisory Board, the Technical Board, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials and Membership Committee.

The General Council (GC) is the supreme governing body of IMEKO. It includes one or two delegates from each Member Organization and holds yearly Sessions.

The Secretariat is the executive body headed by the Secretary General. It carries out the decisions of the GC.

The Advisory Board is to formulate proposals on the policy and strategy of IMEKO, chaired by the Immediate Past President. The task of the Technical Board is to analyse and support the activities of the Technical Committees.

The activities of IMEKO are basically carried out through the Technical Committees to realize the objectives set out in the Constitution and By-Laws.

The 23 Technical Committees do organize symposia, conferences, workshops, seminars on specific topics at regular intervals, publish proceedings of events, textbooks, glossaries, studies, etc.

Table 1
The 23 IMEKO Technical Committees

TC1	Education and Training in Measurement and Instrumentation
TC2	Photonics
TC3	Measurement of Force, Mass and Torque
TC4	Measurement of Electrical Quantities
TC5	Hardness Measurement
TC6	Vocabulary Committee
TC7	Measurement Science
TC8	Traceability in Metrology
TC9	Flow Measurement
TC10	Technical Diagnostics
TC11	Metrological Infrastructures
TC12	Temperature and Thermal Measurements
TC13	Measurements in Biology and Medicine
TC14	Measurement of Geometrical Quantities
TC15	Experimental Mechanics
TC16	Pressure and Vacuum Measurement
TC17	Measurement in Robotics
TC18	Measurement of Human Functions
TC19	Environmental Measurements
TC20	Measurement Techniques for the Construction Industry
TC21	Mathematical Tools for Measurements
TC22	Vibration Measurement
TC23	Metrology in Food and Nutrition

Every three years, IMEKO organizes a World Congress. These are the gathering of scientists and engineers in order to discuss selected papers and reports and to exchange experiences in accordance with the general aims of IMEKO. In all other years IMEKO TCs organize about ten Symposium and Workshops.

The next World Congress will be held in September 2009, in Lisbon, Portugal. We invite you all to participate and make this event a great success.

IMEKO's website URL is www.imeko.org.