



## The International Commission for Optics

The International Commission for Optics (ICO) had preliminary meetings in Czechoslovakia and France before the first General Meeting in The Netherlands in 1948 at which a set of statutes was adopted. These statutes were amended in 1956 and again in 1972, 1984, and 1990. To understand the role of the ICO and its structure it is informative to quote the 13 articles that comprise the statutes.

**Article 1 Objective.** The objective of the International Commission for Optics (ICO) is to contribute, on an international basis, to the progress, and diffusion of knowledge of, theoretical and instrumental optics, the applications of optics and physiological optics.

In particular, it proposes to promote international co-operation and to facilitate the rapid exchange of information, by encouraging and furthering the organisation, on an international basis, of General Meetings, congresses, symposia on special topics and summer schools. It will also work where practicable, to promote international agreement on nomenclature, units, symbols and similar subjects.

**Article 2 Affiliation.** The International Commission for Optics is affiliated to the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and through IUPAP to the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU).

**Article 3 Membership.** The Commission has Members representing identified optics committees. A Member adheres to the Commission through its Territorial Committee for Optics; each Territorial Committee for Optics shall either (a) be a subcommittee of the body representing the Member in IUPAP, (b) be recognised by the body representing the Member in IUPAP, or (c) if no such body exists be recognised by the council of IUPAP.

Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary-General of the Commission and may be considered and approved by the Bureau, subject to ratification at the next General Meeting of the Commission.

A Member should effectively represent independent scientific activity in optics in a definite territory and be listed under a name that avoids any misunderstanding about the territory represented. The word "territory" does not imply any political position on the part of the Commission which

seeks to assist scientists in optics everywhere in the world to co-operate on an international level.

The Commission may accept as Associate Members applicant organisations otherwise qualified which are not ready for full membership. Associate Members pay no dues and have no voting privileges.

**Article 4 Organisation.** The ICO will consist of:

(1) A Bureau of twelve members, formed by a President, a Past-President, a Secretary-General, a Treasurer, and eight Vice-Presidents (at least two of whom are from industry). It is possible for one person to hold jointly the offices of Secretary-General and Treasurer. In that event the number of Bureau Members reduces to eleven. One additional Vice President may be co-opted by a unanimous vote of the Bureau.

(2) The representatives of the Executive Council of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics appointed under Article 7b of the statutes of the Union.

(3) The official delegates who are appointed by the Territorial Committee for Optics of each Member.

The number of official delegates and votes assigned to the Member is determined according to the following scale:

Category	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of shares	1	2 or 3	4 to 6	7 to 9	10 to 15	over 15
Number of official delegates and votes	1	2	3	4	5	6

**Article 5 The Bureau.** The Bureau is responsible for the conduct of the Commission's business between General Meetings. All Bureau Members, with the exception of the Past-President, are elected by the General Meeting, and as a rule their term of office is for three years from October 1 in the year of the election.

The President will be elected for a term of 3 years, normally after having served 3 years as a Bureau Member. In the event the President is unable to continue his duties for the elected term, the Past-President (or if he is unable, the Secretary-General) will act as interim President, or, with the concurrence of the majority of the Bureau, will appoint one of the Bureau Members as interim President.

The Secretary-General and Treasurer will be elected for a term of three years and will be eligible for a second and usually final term of three more

years. If either is unable to continue his duty for the elected term, the President will, with the concurrence of the majority of the Bureau, appoint a substitute from among the Bureau Members.

Other Bureau Members will be elected for 3 years and will be eligible for not more than one further term of three years, except as described in the above two paragraphs.

The Bureau may fill vacancies occurring in its member shop during the interval period between General Meetings.

**Article 6 Finance.** In addition to money directly voted by IUPAP, the International Commission for Optics may possess funds of its own consisting of subscriptions from the Members and special donations or grants. The payment of annual dues is the responsibility of the Territorial Committees for Optics. Dues are payable on the first day of each year. Certain specific projects may be financed independently of the general resources of the Commission. The unitary subscription for the ICO shall be decided by the ICO at a General Meeting. The method of calculating the subscription for each Member shall be that provided in Article 14 of IUPAP.

**Article 7 Withdrawal and Resignation.** A Territorial Committee for Optics whose subscription is more than six years in arrears is to be regarded as having withdrawn. Any Member which has resigned is liable for the unpaid subscriptions up to the end of the year of resignation. Any Member ceasing to belong to the Commission forfeits its rights to ICO assets.

**Article 8 General Meeting.** A General Meeting of the International Commission for Optics will usually be held every third year. The following business will be carried out at each of these General Meetings: (a) election of the Bureau; (b) examination of a Financial Statement presented by the Bureau; (c) agreement on a provisional budget for future years; (d) discussion of questions submitted by the different Territorial Committees for Optics, the Bureau or the Executive Council of IUPAP.

The voting powers of the delegations shall be in accord with those fixed by the Statutes of IUPAP (Articles 14 and 16. See also Article 4 of the ICO above.)

Members of a Territorial Committee for Optics who are not official delegates or representatives of Associate Members, as well as members of subcommittees appointed by the ICO, may attend General Meetings in a consultative capacity.

The President of the International Commission for Optics may invite scientists who are not delegates to attend meetings of the General Meeting as consultants.

The President may, with the approval of the Bureau, convene an extraordinary General Meeting, and shall call such Meetings upon the request of one-third of the Members.

The Draft Agenda for the General Meeting is circulated by the Secretary-General at least three months before the opening of the General Meeting. Subjects not on the Draft Agenda may be added at the Meeting with the consent of a single majority of the votes of Members represented at the Meeting.

A Member whose delegation will not attend a given General Meeting by wishes to vote on appropriate matters appearing on the Agenda may send its vote in writing to the President. To be valid, it must be received prior to the voting.

**Article 9 Other Meetings.** The International Commission for Optics may sponsor or co-sponsor international conferences and give financial support (grants or guarantees), as a grant to organising committees or as a travelling grant directly to participants.

**Article 10 Relation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (See also Articles 2 and 3).** The Commission will report concerning its work and its financial position to each General Assembly of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics and will receive directives from that Assembly. Affiliation of the Commission to the Union can be terminated either by the Commission at its General Meeting or by the Union at its General Assembly. In the former case, the necessary resolution must obtain a two-thirds majority among all members. In the event of disaffiliation, the special funds of the Commission are to remain its own property, but any unexpected balance of money received from IUPAP shall be returned to that body.

**Article 11 Duration of the Commission.** The life of the International Commission for Optics is not limited. In the event of the dissolution of the Commission by a majority of two-thirds of the votes of the Members, its assets will be allocated by the General Meeting to one or more not-for-profit organisations of closely similar purposes serving the optical sciences.

**Article 12 Alterations to Statutes.** Alterations in the Statutes may be proposed by the Bureau of the Commission, by one of the Territorial Committees for Optics, or by the Council of IUPAP. Such proposals must be received by the Secretary-General of the Commission at least three months before the date of the General Meeting.

Amendments or modifications may be adopted only at a General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the Members. Alterations of Statutes must be approved by the Council of IUPAP, which shall also constitute the final authority in regard to interpretation of Statutes.

**Article 13 Rules and Codes of Practice.** The Commission may adopt rules for the conduct of business, specify the powers of the Bureau and determine procedures for dealing with matters not specifically laid down in these Statutes. They are meant to give guidance in general terms to the Bureau and Territorial Committees for Optics in matters such as, for example, the provision of grants from the funds of the International Commission for Optics for Symposia and Summer Schools.

Such rules and codes of practice may not contravene the Statutes of the ICO. The adoption, modification, or abolition of any such rule or code of practice shall require either a majority of two-thirds at a General Meeting of the Commission, or alternatively a majority of two-thirds of the total number of votes of the Members in a postal vote on a proposal unanimously approved by the Bureau of the International Commission for Optics.

The text of any rule or code of practice applicable at any time shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to each of the Territorial Committees for Optics, but it shall not be required that any such text be printed with the Statutes of the International Commission for Optics.

#### *ICO Bureau Members*

President: A. Consortini (Italy)  
Former President: J. C. Dainty (U.K.)  
Secretary General: P. Chavel (France)  
Treasurer: R. R. Shannon (U.S.A.)  
Vice Presidents: T. Asakura, (Japan);  
K. Chalasinska-Macukow (Poland);  
G. G. Mu (China); S. S. Lee (Korea); F. Merkle (Germany);  
G. T. Sincerbox (U.S.A.); C. H. F. Velzel (The Netherlands);  
M. J. Yzuel (Spain)

## **ICO XVII — Korea, 1996**

The next triennial meeting of the ICO will be held in Korea at the Taedok Science and Culture Center in Taejon from August 19–23, 1996. The overall title of the meeting is "Optics for Science and New Technology." The Secretariat can be reached through Professor B. Y. Kim, Department of Physics, KAIST, 373-1 Kusong-dong, Yusong-gu, Taejon 305-701, Korea. The conference chairs are Sang Soo Lee, Honorary President of the Optical Society of Korea, and Anna Consortini, President of the ICO.

## **ICO XVIII—San Francisco, 1999?**

A proposal to hold the 1999 triennial meeting in San Francisco has been accepted by the ICO Bureau and will be voted on at the next General Meeting in Korea.

**Brian J. Thompson**  
Editor

## Optical Engineering Editorial Schedule

*November 1995*

### **Optical Remote Sensing and Image Processing**

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*January 1996*

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