

FEEDBACK ON ICEE-2001

(A)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ing. Andrea Samolejova [SMTP:andrea.samolejova@vsb.cz]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2001 2:29 AM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: Re:

Dr. Aung:

I am sorry I confused you with the invoices... I was so angry. The thing is that the participants from the Czech Republic paid the conference fee to our university and we sent later one big payment for all of them (for 23 participants) to Heitmann in the beginning of June. I informed the organizers from Heitmann about the payment the very same day (in the email I forwarded to you) One lady even confirmed that Heitmann received the payment (I also forwarded this email to you). But since the last week, the Czech participants have been receiving invoices amounting to 4300 NOK and saying:

On going through our accounts, we have noted that our invoice No. 104953 of 1.6. for the amount of Nok 4300,- has not been settled. please, settle this account as soon as possible..

But, like in May, I asked the organizers NOT to send those invoices to our participants, because they would pay via VSB - TUO. They still were sending out the invoices... I attach the registartion form, which we prepared for our participants, it states that the payment would be made via VSB - TUO. I am sorry I involved you into this problem. But I would appreciate, if you could mention this in Manchester. Someone should stop this.

Thank you.
Andrea

(B)

-----Original Message-----

From: filip@siu.edu [SMTP:filip@siu.edu]
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2001 12:51 PM
To: Aung, Win
Cc: mawright@siu.edu; zdenek.weiss@vsb.cz
Subject: Re: 2002 Calls/2001 Feedback-Proceedings/Ethics Conf.

Win,

I was quite busy and I am late with my response. As a chair of one of sessions organized, I have to reply. Let me make several comments:

1) Our session was disorganized, I was asked to remove the papers and then... there were only two papers given in our session. On top of that it was me and Dr. Weiss. Note that we see each other frequently do have an NSF sponsored project and there is no need for us to conferencing in Oslo. It was unpleasant also because there were several important personalities including the Deputy Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic present in audience.

2) All was typical by an absolute lack of communication with Dr. Clausen (he never replied to any comments and questions, it is nice to see him being awarded for a great job) and Dr. Budny, you have seen his presentation during opening ceremony - simply chaos. People made requests and were complaining to chair and chair could not do anything about it.

3) Title of our session was changed. Contributions were removed and coauthors were missing in proceedings. This all happened without consulting with chair of session - very bad impact.

4) If there is a session and this session has a chair, he or she (chair) should be responsible for papers selection in this session. Not the organizing personnel (like Dr. Clausen or Budny in this particular case) who does not have any expertise. This fact badly influenced also other sessions I was attending. An example- nanomaterials.

5) Originally posted selected contributions (under numbers without session) were simply chaos. Also the proceedings are chaotic and not organized.

This all shows a lack of experience and professionalism. Make sure, the people in charge of organization are professionals and have some experience with organizing such an event.

In spite of this fact, I have to say that I enjoyed being there and had a good time speaking to others. It is a good idea to be active in this area. I would suggest an integration with other agencies working in similar area in the future. It means let's get together with other (numerous) similar activities (conferences). I think the ICEE conference should be organized every 3 or 4 years and on a highly professional level as compared to last one.

I do not think that safety is an issue here. I mean there is no reason to be concerned about this conference with respect of last tragic events in the USA. But this is my personal opinion as are all above mentioned comments.

Best Regards,

Peter [Filip, Czech Republic on visiting assignment in U.S.A.]

(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane P. Chang [SMTP:jpchang@server2.seas.ucla.edu]
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2001 4:03 PM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: Re:

Dr. Aung:

The program is very solid, but the organization is a bit confusing. I like the presentation made by Sigurd Meldal the best, and think it could be used as a template. He sent out request for input before the conference to other US participants, and organized the input in a concise presentation with a short introduction of all US participants. I think the time can be much more efficiently used if each country has a representative who does the presentation and an introduction of other participants.

If the outline of each country's presentation can be compiled and given to all participants before the workshop, that will help greatly.

Thank you very much!

Best regards,
Jane

(D)

-----Original Message-----

From: Farrell, Stephanie [SMTP:Farrell@rowan.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 5:11 PM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: RE: Workshop feedback

Dear Win:

....My suggestion regarding the programmatic and organizational aspects would be the following: If possible, publish the program and the workshop schedule farther in advance. Due to our fiscal year calendar, I had to purchase my airline tickets long before this information was available. Had I known about the Saturday workshop at the time I made my arrangements, I would have traveled to Oslo a day earlier! It would also be nice to start the communication between workshop organizers and participants at an earlier date. You were very helpful in disseminating information and providing guidance, but I would like to see the

organizers more involved a little earlier in the process. I think these suggestions would be helpful for everyone....

Stephanie

(E)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ing. Andrea Samolejova [SMTP:andrea.samolejova@vsb.cz]
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 2:47 AM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: Fw: Czech delegation for ICEE'01

This is the email I wrote you about.

I wrote to the man whose name was on the invoice some days ago, by then I knew about one man only, Prof. Malek from TU Pardubice called me about the invoice. Therefore I mentioned him only. By today I know that more than 12 people received the invoice. I am disgusted about the organization... they even did not return the fee for Radim although I asked them. I will forward you another email on that.

Please, advise me.

Andrea

-----Původní zpráva-----

Od: Ing. Andrea Samolejova <andrea.samolejova@vsb.cz>
<<mailto:andrea.samolejova@vsb.cz>>>

Komu: randi.sandvaer@heitmann.no <<mailto:randi.sandvaer@heitmann.no>> <<mailto:randi.sandvaer@heitmann.no>>>

Kopie: jiri.malek@upce.cz <<mailto:jiri.malek@upce.cz>> <<mailto:jiri.malek@upce.cz>>>

Datum: 24. září 2001 14:57

Předmět: Fw: Czech delegation for ICEE'01

Dear Mr. Sandvaer:

I have organized participation of Czech delegates for ICEE'01 in Oslo as well as the payment for all Czech delegates (except of two or three participants from the CR). We had collected money from 23 participants and sent one big payment in amount of 94500 NOK on June 8th. At the same time, I have emailed to Heitmann (see below) the list of participants whose fee was paid.

You may see on the list also name of Vice-rector Malek from Pardubice. Therefore, I do not understand, why you STILL require the fee from him. He

received your letter of 1.9. 2001. There is the number above his address if it could help you to identify the letter: 140845.

Please, check your files again.

In fact, Heitmann owes us one fee for Dr. Farana, whose fee was waived as to the member of iNEER. I am going to forward you the whole correspondence between myself and Heitmann so that you could manage everything accordingly. Thank you. Don't hesitate to contact me regarding any opacity with the Czech delegation.

Best regards,
Andrea Samolejova

Mrs. Andrea Samolejova (Krizakova)
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Czech Republic
E-mail: andrea.samolejova@vsb.cz <<mailto:andrea.samolejova@vsb.cz>>
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-----Původní zpráva-----

Od: Ing. Andrea Krizakova <andrea.krizakova@vsb.cz
<<mailto:andrea.krizakova@vsb.cz>>>
Komu: congress@heitmann.no <<mailto:congress@heitmann.no>> <
congress@heitmann.no <<mailto:congress@heitmann.no>>>
Datum: 8. června 2001 14:07
Předmět: Czech delegation for ICEE'01

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding a payment of ICEE'01 conference fees for 23 participants of ICEE'01 from the Czech Republic. Today, we transferred the money - 94500 NOK (23x4100 + 200 - bank fee) to your account:

account: 5005.05.71111
bank: Den norske Bank
Box 1171 Sentrum
N-0107 Oslo, Norway

accountholder: Heitmann Travel AS

SWIFT: DNBANOKK

Please mark the payment with "ARR: 20 73 23" and names of delegates.

The only thing I am not sure about is whether our accountant marked the payment with ARR: 20 73 23.

Therefore, I am announcing it also this way. Also I attached the list of participants whose fee was paid this way.

I hope that everything will be fine, but i would appreciate, if you could send me a confirmation of the payment.

Sincerely Yours,
Andrea Krizakova, organizer of Czech delegation for ICEE'01

(G)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Marchman [SMTP:marchman@vt.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2001 12:15 PM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: RE: ICEE feedback

Win,

Feel free to use my comments in any way that might help. The conference could be an excellent way to "network" with folks from other countries; however, the way the 2001 conference sessions were organized, if you can call it that, did nothing to bring the right people together. My paper co-author commented that few of the attendees he met were even engineering faculty. Indeed, when he sought out a couple of other attendees from his university in England he found that they were librarians and didn't even work in the engineering part of the library. They were apparently there because they were to help organize next year's meeting, which doesn't sound too promising.

When you go to an international conference you hope to meet people from other countries with common interests and to come away with prospects of international collaboration. That just didn't happen with ICEE 2001.

Regarding 2002, my British co-author's comment was: "who would want to go to Manchester?!" I guess we will have to wait and see.

By the way, I might be interested in chairing a session on international student design collaboration if it is really possible to select appropriate papers for a session.

Jim Marchman

(H)

-----Original Message-----

From: Hong Wu [SMTP:HWu@boris.hiof.no]
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 3:02 AM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: Re: 2002 Calls/2001 Feedback-Proceedings/Ethics Conf.

To: Secretary General, iNEER and ICEE-ISC
Subject: Feedback

September 27, 2001

Dear Secretary General,

Attached my input in the following areas as you required. Thank you for your attention.

Hong Wu

- (d) Specific comments and recommendations on sessions and panels that you would like to see included or avoided in ICEE-2002 next year.
The chairperson in my session did not show up, so we had to make a self-arrangement. I hope this will be avoided in next year.

(I)

-----Original Message-----

From: coleman@uncc.edu [SMTP:coleman@uncc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2001 1:46 PM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: Re: 2002 Calls/2001 Feedback-Proceedings/Ethics Conf.

Dear Win,

Here are a few comments on the ICEE-2001 conference as requested. I would be glad to help in 2002 but probably won't be able to attend due to the late date of the conference and conflicts with the start of my university.

Bob Coleman

COMMENTS:

b). In general the conferece was well done. There was some confusion in the grouping of the presentations. One of the papers that I delivered was in a "mis-matched" session and had nothing to do with the session title. Another in the same session had no relation to the topic and didn't seem to even have much engineering content (it was on training drag-line operators to run a shovel in a strip-mine). The lack of means to deliver PowerPoint presentations was also a problem. This has become the defacto standard of delivery at every conference that I have attended in the last five years and to have to convert to hard-copy slides at a cost of \$1.00/slide was a problem in time and costs. The personnel running the conferece seemed competent and tried to be helpful when asked.

c). No major suggestions other than good instructions as to what format the papers will utilize for presentation. If there is a social event, please enusre there is space to keep it from being so crowded and try to keep the cost reasonable. The fjord tour was very expensive, particularly with a guest.

d). Make sure the papers are correlated to the session titles and schedule a variety at the same time slot, rather than similar types of talks.

Bob Coleman, UNC-Charlotte/USA

(J)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Marchman [SMTP:marchman@vt.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2001 9:29 AM
To: waung@ineer.org
Subject: ICEE feedback

I enjoyed my visit to Norway for the ICEE meeting but found the meeting to be little more than an enjoyable social event. The meeting organization was nothing less than terrible.

There seemed to be absolutely no rationale for assignment of papers to sessions. My paper seemed totally unrelated to the session topic and the same was true for most of the papers in that session. There were at least other two sessions which, by their title, would have been much more appropriate for my paper but those sessions were also filled with seemingly randomly placed papers. The whole conference was like this and my co-author, a professor from England, and I both decided after our paper session that it was fruitless to attend anything other than the social events and meals. I heard many people complaining about the same problems as well as the poor quality of the presentations.

The room for the session where our paper was to be presented had no overhead projector but did have a powerpoint projector, despite signs at the registration desk noting that there would be overhead projectors in every session and powerpoint presentations were discouraged. The session chairman was late and it was obvious that he had not even looked over the titles of the papers before the session. He rushed everyone through the presentations, allowed few questions (when there were any from the audience composed mostly of the other paper presenters), and the session was over a half hour early.

The tours scheduled for Sunday were late getting started because participants needed tickets which weren't available until the registration desk opened and it didn't open until the listed starting time for the tours. No one, in fact, had any idea when the registration desk was supposed to open because there was no time given in the pre-conference materials.

There are at least three purposes to any international conference; the international exchange of technical or educational insights through paper presentations, the exchange of ideas and experiences at other conference events and in the hallways, hotels, etc., and the opportunity to visit an interesting place and have someone else pay for the trip. It appeared that this conference was primarily a convenient excuse for the "organizing committee" to get together in an attractive location. This is how many international conferences start out but most seem to take the other role of organizing the meeting itself a little more seriously.

Don't take me wrong, I had a ball in Norway; shopping, visiting museums and parks, enjoying receptions and meals (the salmon and reindeer were fantastic), sailing in the rain in the harbor, and taking the all day "Norway in a Nutshell" train/boat trip while skipping the conference on Tuesday. The conference provided a convenient excuse for a trip to a place I had never been, but its sessions and papers were organized too poorly to be taken seriously. I had hoped for much more from the conference but it was all too evident by the end of the first paper session that I wouldn't find it so I decided to make the most of the other opportunities found in Oslo.

Jim Marchman
Dr. J. F. Marchman, Professor
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Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-7245

(K)

-----Original Message-----

From: Leung Chun Fai [SMTP:cvelcf@nus.edu.sg]
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2001 12:45 AM
To: 'Aung, Win'
Subject: RE: 2002 Calls/2001 Feedback-Proceedings/Ethics Conf.

Dear Dr Win Aung

My comments on ICEE-2001 are as follows:

(3) Besides the 3 rooms in the main conference hall, all the other rooms are too small to allow more participation. I could get into some of the sessions that I was interested in.

(4) In view of (2) above, my personal opinion is to have less parallel sessions to accommodate much higher percentage of good quality presentations and hence to facilitate a more lively discussion as the number of participants in each session would be higher. The rest can be poster presentations or summarised by reporters on specific themes.

C F Leung
National University of Singapore

(L)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheikh A. Akbar [SMTP:Akbar@mse.eng.ohio-state.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2001 5:57 PM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: Re: 2002 Calls/2001 Feedback-Proceedings/Ethics Conf.

Win:

I am copying my earlier comments which I sent you right after coming back from Oslo. I will not be able to attend the ISC meeting at UMIST. Good luck!

Sheikh

Dear Win:

- The sight-seeing tour on Sunday was rather poorly timed. I still don't understand the logic behind starting a 4-hour tour at 10:00 a.m. It actually ended at 2:10 p.m. Since lunch was not provided as part of the tour, it should have been planned from 8-12 or 9-1. Several of us were late for the ISC meeting since we were on the tour. By the way, the tour was very good.

- The reception at the City Hall was not very well timed. It was arranged at a peak dinner time without much food. In fact, several people didn't get anything to eat. It should have been arranged much earlier (e.g. 6:00 p.m.). The city hall tour was excellent.

- Some of the technical programs were drastically changed (e.g. nano-engineering 3) creating quite a bit of confusion among speakers as well as audience. Such changes should have been preannounced for example at the conclusion of the plenary session.

- Although nano-engineering sessions were very well attended, it was given one of the smallest rooms available. In fact, the session on Monday was not able to accommodate the audience and several people had to stand. Several other rooms were quite empty.

Call me (614-292-6725), if you have any questions.

With compliments,

Sheikh

(M)

-----Original Message-----

From: Dr George R Burns [SMTP:g.burns@mgt.gla.ac.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2001 8:21 AM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: RE: ICEE-ISC meeting: October 8-9, 2001 in Manchester, UK

Hi Win

A few thoughts based on Oslo:

I was surprised to find in the proceedings a number of papers that could have been grouped into a very good work based learning session - I wonder why they were dispersed, perhaps for next year we could look at titles that contain work based or work place as key words and so create a session.

regards

George Burns

(N)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ing. Andrea Krizakova [SMTP:andrea.krizakova@vsb.cz]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2001 6:10 AM
To: Aung, Win
Subject: Re: IGIP conference

Dr. Aung: I owe you my impression on ICEE-01. So here it is:

I was dissappointed about the workshop organization as well as its progress. Czech delegation (and I believe that the others too) put a lot of efforts in preparation (me especially). I appreciated that because they were mostly people in top positions at universities and so very busy. I also told them to pay for conference fee otherwise they wouldn't be able to attend the workshop... and I was certainly wrong, because it wasn't part of ICEE'01. Also it was not clear till the very last moment, how the workshop would look like. (I mean its format)

There were some problems with a technical equipment in the beginning but Jorn Archer was amazing in this sense - he took care of everything (internet, lap-tops..) within short time which I admired with regard to his limited options in the hotel.

I liked the awarding ceremony (although speakers maybe wouldn't agree with regard to their limited space:-) and especially, that Radim was officially awarded for his effort.

Next time, I would prefer ICEEs to be held at universities, they seem to me to be more flexible than hotels.....

Regards,
Andrea [Samolejova, Czech Republic]
