

Summary of propositions for Session 2

In principle, the members of Session 2 agreed with the conclusions and recommendations of the "Session 1" meeting, as described in Attachment 6; however the following additions were included:

1. The equivalence of the university degree on an international scale should be promoted in collaboration with IU-MRS. This will facilitate the smooth exchange of students among continents, in order to promote interdisciplinary research and international collaborations. Education and Training on a world scale for young students in materials science is considered a stimulus for exchange. This mutual recognition should help:
 - Young scientists, especially at the beginning of their careers, to attain positions in research or in teaching,
 - To attract more students to pursue studies in materials science and engineering.
2. Mechanisms to facilitate international mobility for young scientists should be explored. It was mentioned that the funding of exchange programmes is not the actual problem; but the perspectives afterwards regarding options for reentry and securing future career development opportunities are the critical items to be addressed. Thus, institutes must address issues such as future career prospects of research scientists upon return to their home country.
3. To assure reliable and long term collaborations in materials research programmes among scientists of the world's material research institutes, it would be advisable to set up joint international and formal research programmes. Such programs could serve to investigate and to promote the possibility of sharing large scientific test facilities like neutron and synchrotron radiation sources.
4. Regarding the international standardization of materials and materials technologies, it is crucial to establish "standard" analysis methodologies based on the various sorts of testing techniques. In other words, common technologies and techniques to enable standardization must be identified and developed among the international materials research communities.
5. The development and utilization of information technologies in the internationalization process should be taken into account: to resolve potential difficulties in communication and collaboration that young scientists might face during long term visits abroad. For example, it is recommended to expedite exchange of information among the laboratories over the World Wide Web; to establish an institute for collecting information for the web-site; to collect information for a "Catalog of Unique Facilities" worldwide; and to operate virtual research groups over internet and facilitate network building between international research groups.
6. The promotion of personal contacts among scientists is welcomed and facilitated via the organization of world-wide research institutes science seminars, working groups, and conferences. Research groups with allocated functions should also be envisaged to assure the international integration on specific matters.

7. To bring to fruition the propositions of Sessions 1 and 2, it was strongly agreed by all members of the panel to set up a small working group, and to prepare a concept proposal for the “World Materials Research Institute Forum”.

The mandate of this task-group should be the following:

- To formulate key goals, to work out a strategy , to prepare an action plan, to suggest an organizational structure and to develop the logistical design for the “World Materials Research Institute Forum, for the future,
- To highlight a list of key areas considered most attractive to all international materials research centres i.e. materials research for energy, environment, health, etc.,
- To have regular exchanges and meetings between the members of the working group and include the participation of ad-hoc experts from various materials research centres,
- To prepare for a follow-up meeting planned in Europe, for example in Bordeaux or Berlin in 2007, at which the working document may be discussed and finally agreed. (More regular meetings among the directors of the world-wide materials research institutes were requested).

8. Realization of a World Materials Research Institute (WMRI) would like to be discussed in the future forum.