

“How the IUMAS had started”

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The initial discussions about an international partnership took place during the 2nd biennial European Microbeam Analysis Society (EMAS) workshop on Modern Developments and Application in Microbeam Analysis, held in Dubrovnik in 1991. It was a strange meeting because Yugoslavia was on the brink of breaking up and the imminent war cast a shadow over the event.

At the time, I was President-elect of the US Microbeam Analysis Society (MAS) and Abraham ('Bram) Boekestein was President of EMAS. 'Bram and I were taking part in one of the EMAS social events, a boat cruise on the waters of the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Dubrovnik, when we first broached the idea of partnerships between the various microbeam-related societies around the world. Initial discussions focused on creating an analytical version of the (then) International Federation of Societies for Electron Microscopy, IFSEM (now IFSM). 'Bram and I agreed to contact the leaders of other national microbeam-related societies to see if there was general interest in such an association and of course, supporting conferences in which all the societies came together.

Over the next couple of years we explored the various levels of interest and the format of the organization. In 1994, the leadership of the Australian Microbeam Analysis Society (AMAS), the Chinese Microbeam Analysis Society, EMAS, JSPS -141 Committee (Microbeam Analysis) and MAS agreed that we would form the International Union of Microbeam Analysis Societies. The IUMAS representatives of the five founder societies asked if I would become the President. I accepted and served until 2000 by which time the quadrennial conference sequence was agreed on and established.

Clive Nockolds agreed to host the first IUMAS meeting as part of the AMAS/ASEM joint meeting, already planned at the University of Sydney in 1996. The meeting was a success and was followed by IUMAS-II in Kona, Hawaii (2000), IUMAS-III in Firenze, Italy, (2005), IUMAS-IV in Perth, Western Australia, in 2008 and of course IUMAS-V to be held later this month in Seoul, Korea.

Congratulatory Message to the IUMAS-V

Since its foundation in 1994, IUMAS has grown through the participation of the Microscopical Society of Canada (Société de Microscopie du Canada), the Korean Society of Microscopy (KSM) and the Brazilian Society for Microscopy and Microanalysis (SBMM). With 8 active member societies around the world and now with the 5th meeting about to take place, I can say that the Union has been even more successful than 'Bram and I had hoped when we first conceived of the idea on that windy afternoon in 1991. So it is really 20 years this year since IUMAS was conceived and I wish the participants in IUMAS-V all the best for a successful meeting, with planning of course for IUMAS-VI in 2015.



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