

## **Minutes of the Parent Committee Meetings at TEMA-16**

St. Petersburg Hotel, St. Petersburg, Russia

### **Meeting of 27 June 2017**

Attendance: Mary L'Abbe (ML), John Beattie (JB), Xingen Lei (XL), Lothar Rink (LR), Anatoly Skalny (AS)  
Apologies: Bob Cousins, Bo Lonnerdal, Magdalena Aria

### ***Discussion of possible venues for TEMA-18:***

There was a lengthy discussion about possible venues for TEMA-18 in 2023.

AS suggested Dubai because the funding possibilities are good. However no-one with a strong international scientific reputation as host could be identified. Also the interest of the region is focussed on animal nutrition and meat production. JB pointed out that TEMA has historically been based on cutting edge science so the host would have to have an international profile and drive to ensure that this fundamental principle is maintained.

XL suggested an Indian group (where?) focussed on animal nutrition, with money from Dept. of Agriculture and feed industry. AS suggested a nationally well-recognised group Tepak (?) university in the Punjab, India. Other options in Mumbai, NESAI and other Indian venues and organisations were discussed. Fundraising was discussed as a potential issue for Indian institutions.

ML reported that there was some interest from Samir Samman and Sheila Skeaff at Dunedin for hosting TEMA 18, but again, they have concerns about their capacity to raise funds and access to New Zealand is expensive in time and cost.

JB suggested that there may be similar problems in holding the meeting in Australia. However, Brisbane was discussed as a possible venue as it was considered easy to access.

China was raised as a potential host but XL pointed out that TEMA-14 was already held in China. XL indicated that the Enshi delegation at TEMA-16 were keen to support the meeting again in Enshi, but despite TEMA-14 being a very successful meeting, the Committee were in agreement that TEMA-18 should be held in another location. A group from Changsha (Prof. Yulong Yin) has submitted a proposal to host the meeting and other possibilities exist within China. There was consensus that another country in Australasia should be given the opportunity to host a TEMA meeting.

XL suggested looking at the possibilities for a Japanese group hosting TEMA-18, but despite there being several active groups there, none of them attend TEMA. Taiwan was also discussed.

LR suggested asking those on the TEMA mailing list for proposals to host TEMA-18, with strong leadership identified, projected cost and financial support plans presented and ease/low-cost of access to the venue demonstrated. This suggestion was supported by the Committee, and a proposal by someone with long-term interests in trace elements and TEMA would be preferred. It was agreed that the deadline for submission of these proposals should be the end of 2017, for announcement of the Committee's choice by June 2018.

### ***Attraction of young researchers to TEMA***

LR raised the issue of attracting young researchers to participate in TEMA meetings. JB pointed out that specialist trace element meetings such as the ISZB meeting are well-attended by young researchers and that effort should be made to attract them to TEMA meetings. LR proposed that combining meetings is a way to do this. XL suggested that pre- or post-conferences/workshops with specialised topics may bring added value to attract younger students and postdocs.

### ***Report on TEMA-16***

AS reported that there were 450 abstracts submitted to TEMA-16 with 220 attendees. He indicated that he had financial support from Perkin-Elmer, Agilent and local distributor companies. The Russian Government contributed US\$5,000 as a grant and additional funding came from local government and organisations, which also assisted in cost savings through reduced charges. AS confirmed that TEMA-16 would break even financially and the Committee congratulated him on achieving this.

### ***New members of the Parent Committee***

ML raised the issue of new Parent Committee members. She announced her intention to resign as President and the Committee endorsed her nomination of XL as the new President. JB confirmed that he would stay on as Secretary and Treasurer until TEMA-17 in 2020.

XL proposed to form an advisory committee in which previous experienced members of the Parent Committee could contribute the wealth of their expertise, while the Parent Committee was populated with younger active researchers. There was a lengthy discussion of various potential new members, attempting to balance country and regional representation and also the specific trace element and disciplinary interests within the Committee. The Committee eventually defined a short list of four candidates:

- Manju Reddy (India-USA)
- Samir Samman (Australia)
- Silvia Franciscato Cozzolino (Brazil)
- Miguel Arredondo (Chile)

### ***TEMA Finances***

XL enquired about the TEMA Committee financial resources and JB reported that they were not large. The funds are held in two accounts at a Clydesdale Bank Branch in Aberdeen (Sort Code 82-61-16) and currently stand at £17,812. JB asked whether the Committee were in favour of investing the money to earn better interest, and there was agreement that secure investments, such as Government Bonds, might be a useful way of growing the existing funds. JB said he would investigate options.

There was discussion about the merits and disadvantages of raising income by becoming a society with membership fee but it is not clear what benefits membership would bring to the members and complications regarding tax status may arise. ML queried whether TEMA has a non-profit status and JB said he would confirm whether this is the case.

In the long term, it was deemed important to identify someone in the UK who could take over the Secretary/Treasurer position from JB in 2020 so that the existing funds did not have to move across national borders, with all the tax implications that may bring.

XL raised the issue of using funds to make a new website which could raise funds from companies wishing to display their logos in support of TEMA.

### ***Website Upgrading***

XL pointed out that the website is static and that this may not be attractive for anyone considering whether to participate in TEMA meetings and as a focal point for students and researchers. JB explained that the former website was directly managed by him but that Aberdeen University subsequently deemed that all websites on their server had to a) conform to their standards of appearance and function and b) could not be managed directly by him. Constructing a website on a private server with a distinct domain name will incur cost and XL suggested using TEMA funds to do

this. Maintaining an active website requires time, and student involvement in this task would be beneficial.

#### **Action Points**

- AS should pass his summary report of TEMA-16 (ppt file) presented at the closing ceremony to JB for posting on the web.
- AS should pass the link to the conference photoshoots to JB for posting and to all participants for downloading.
- AS should pass the directory (in particular email address) of all participants to all.
- JB to send the minutes of our two parent committee meetings so we can share with the previous committee and follow up several new items including additions of new members from South America, China, and Japan, call for host of TEMA 18 in 2023, collaboration with scientific publishers, initiating/strengthening participation of junior scientists, students, and postdocs.
- JB to check the charitable status of TEMA and investigate investment of the TEMA funds in a secure account with higher interest.
- JB to upgrade the website under a different domain name using TEMA funds and enlist students to maintain and update it.

#### **Meeting of 28 June 2017**

Attendance: Mary L'Abbe, Xingen Lei, Lothar Rink, Anatoly Skalny, Manju Reddy, Samir Samman

Apologies: John Beattie, Bob Cousins, Bo Lonnerdal, Magdalena Aria