



Wei-Chung Wang,  
SEM President,  
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In late November 2009, I attended the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Experimental Mechanics (ICEM) held in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference on Experimental Mechanics (ACEM) at the Holiday Inn Atrium Hotel in Singapore. The number of registered participants was 276. The number of attendees was 256, from 20 countries. There were 3 plenary lectures, 20 invited presentations, 194 oral presentations made in 36 sessions, and 68 poster presentations. Major topics in the 4<sup>th</sup> ICEM were NDT and Smart Structures, Photomechanics & Photonic Sensors, Optics and Laser Applications, Biomechanics and Life Science, Micro and Nano Mechanics, Structural Dynamics and Microfluids. We had delicious Indian cuisine in the conference banquet. After the closing ceremony, we had a wonderful evening in the Asia Pacific Breweries Pte Ltd. We not only enjoyed drinking all kinds of beer but also singing songs of different countries by karaoke!

The history of ACEM begins in 1993 when the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Advanced Technology in Experimental Mechanics (ATEM) was held in Kanazawa, Japan. The ATEM series has been held every two years in Japan since 1993. Professor Morimoto of Wakayama University, the host of ATEM'97 and the past Chair of the Materials and Mechanics Division of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, proposed the establishment of The Asian Liaison Committee for Experimental Mechanics. Later on, the name of the Committee became The Asian Committee of Experimental Mechanics (the acronym is also ACEM, hereinafter called the "Asian Committee"). The constitution of the ACEM Committee was established in 2004. In 2004, the Steering Committee of the Asian Committee consisted of representatives from 14 countries, i.e. Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. Iran, Kuwait and Turkey joined the Steering Committee later. Each country could have three voting members in the Steering Committee.

From 1997 to 2001, even with the existence of the Asian Committee, the dates and frequencies of conferences on experimental mechanics held in Asia were still decided by the host countries. In addition, each host country used its own conference title. I therefore made a suggestion in the Asian Committee that we should discuss the conferences to be held in Asia in the future to avoid time conflict. Thus each country not only has sufficient time ahead to prepare but also saves a lot of resources. Initially, my suggestion was discussed in the Asian Committee but no decision was made. Then, one year, we had two conferences on experimental mechanics in two countries only one day apart. As a result, both conferences had rather low attendance from other countries. Because of that bad experience, the Asian Committee unanimously accepted my suggestion and decided that only one selected international conference on experimental mechanics will be held in Asia every year. The selected conference is called ACEM with a serial number. At the same time, the original conference title adopted by each country is still preserved. Furthermore, a consensus was reached that higher priority should be given to the country which has had no opportunity to host the ACEM before. Based on the general agreements made in the Asian Committee, Japan decided to host ATEM every four years since 2003. Singapore representatives were also very generous in giving its 2008 hosting right to China. Singapore had hosted the ICEM every four years since 1996.

I am very pleased that I hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Experimental Mechanics (ISEM) in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> ACEM at the Grand Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan in 2002. As I mentioned in my September/October President's Message, I will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISEM in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> ACEM in Taiwan. The Asian Committee has already decided that Malaysia, Japan and Thailand will host the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> ACEM, respectively. You are all very welcome to attend those future ACEMs.

In the ACEM Steering Committee Meeting held at noon on November 19, on behalf of the SEM, I signed the Agreement of Cooperation (AOC) with the current Chairman of the Asian Committee, Professor Anand Asundi. When I was the SEM Vice President, I successfully promoted SEM to sign an AOC with the Chinese Society of Mechanical Engineers and Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Republic of China. With more AOC's signed with other international societies, SEM will be more internationalized. Please again recall from my September/October President's Message, Professor Eann Patterson of Michigan State University will co-chair the 2011 SEM Fall Conference in conjunction with the BSSM Annual Conference with Professor Margaret Lucas of the University of Glasgow. I am very pleased to inform you that the discussions on the collaborative arrangements between SEM and BSSM are underway and proceeding very smoothly.

The other development I would like to share with you is that the Steering Committee decided to change the name from the Asian Committee to the Asian Society of Experimental Mechanics (ASEM). As stated in the Steering Committee meeting minutes, "This would be a virtual society

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which any person can join at no cost. This would allow more interaction between members, repeat members at our annual conference and it also provides us with a better bargaining chip when dealing with other associations.” I do look forward to seeing more collaboration between SEM and ASEM after signing the AOC.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. ■



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