



Michael Faraday Institution e.V.

Annual General Meeting, 10 December 2005

Chairman's Report,

October 2004 to December 2005

Meetings

The 2004 AGM was held on 23rd October at the NOVOTEL- Munich Perlach. In the podium discussion it was decided to reduce the MFI membership subscription to €25 in order to attract new members. Unfortunately this has not worked out and the number of members remains constant at 45.

International and National Conferences and lectures

The recent advances in electrical power industry and the IT explosion were the motivation for the Calcutta Branch to organise a two day International Conference on "Energy, Information Technology and Power Sector". The conference focused on to the topics "Emerging Trends Towards Sustained Growth of Energy in the Power Sector and Synergy with Information Technology to Implement Power for All in India" The conference was held in Science City, Kolkata on 28 to 29 January 2005. The response to the Call for paper was overwhelming. The selected papers were presented in 16 technical sessions. The conference was attended by over 300 persons from all over India and neighbouring countries including guest from U K and Germany. Sandip Banerjee was invited by the Calcutta Branch to participate in this conference and was honoured to Co-Chair with Prof. C. R. Mahti on the two technical session "Power Trading" and "Safety, Security and Reliability of Power & Energy Sector".

Sandip Banerjee presented two invited lecture in Calcutta - India in February 2005 to promote science and technology of engineering, which is the main aim of the MFI e.V. The subjects and venues of the presentations were "System Engineering" and "Electronic Warfare" to the students of Calcutta University, Jadavpur University and IEE members of the Calcutta Branch.

The above visit to India was self financed and this volunteer service can be counted as a donation to MFI e.V.

Potsdam Meeting 30 September to 2 October 2005

On the 1st of October members, guests and partners (68 in all) participated in the joint MFI / IEE Potsdam meeting. The MFI / IEE Prestige Lecture "Code Breakers", an account of the activities at Bletchley Park, was presented by Dr. Mark Baldwin. This was followed by the MFI Kelvin Lecture "Moore's Law, Metcalfe's Law and Murphy's Law; succeeding with new technology" which was presented by Simon Maddison. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. Jean Brownsword, member of the IEE Board of Trustees.

Activities in 2004/05

MFI members joined the IMechE and IEE in Germany for a visit to Dillingen, 7-8 October 2004. The town houses the Bosch & Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH (BSH), which makes world famous household appliances. The production processes were very interesting. On the next day, the group visited the factory of Josef Gartner GmbH. at Gundelfingen, near Dillingen. This company works with international architects to produce the metal and glass facades of modern buildings. It has the distinction of having made the facade for the then tallest building in the world – in Taipei 2003. The participants were impressed.

MFI/IEE Technical Visits:

On February 25, 2005 14 members visited the MACCON company in München. The company makes many types of miniature electric motors with fascinating applications. Our host Ted Hoper, to whom we are very grateful.

"Pushing the limits in RF testing " a visit to Rohde and Schwarz München was organised on April 15, 2005 by Athol Berry. 16 members attended the technical visit, which covered a very wide field.

On September 30, 2005 the MFI organised a visit for young engineers to the Fraunhofer Institute for Telecommunications, Heinrich-Hertz-Institute, Berlin. High speed data transmission (at 100 GHz) was demonstrated. The novelty of the visit was the demonstration of virtual three dimensional display techniques.

MFI/IEE Social Event.

On July 9th, 2005 the Munich MFI / IEE Group organised a Sailing and Barbecue day. The members and their families assembled at the boatyard at Diessen on Ammersee to board the "Albatross", built in 1905 by Tsar Nicholas II as a gift for Kaiser Wilhelm. After the end of the cruise at 5 p.m. the group moved on to the home of the Gills for a barbecue evening where they were joined by some more members. It was a great day and will be remembered for a long time. We are very grateful to Frances and Alistair Gill for their kind hospitality.

The other notable activities are the regular Stammtisch in Munich and Christmas Dinner in the regional centres.

Training Courses

The IEE Lifeskills Seminars were not offered during the 2004/ 2005 period. The seminars are planned for the coming year, and will, as usual, be open to MFI members.

Younger Members' Papers Competition

One of the highlights of our national joint weekends has been the Younger Members' papers competition. Unfortunately, due to organisational problems we were unable to present this popular event in 2004 and 2005. In the near future we hope to organise this Papers Competition again to promote Younger Members.

VDE connection

Due to personnel changes in middle management levels of VDE we have lost the old contacts. Efforts are being undertaken to re-establish some contacts.

Special Interest Group

The Translator group has ceased to exist as a physical entity and there have been no meetings during the last two years. Contact is now made solely via the Internet, and some new members are participating.

Internet Communication

We have been sending our members information via e-mail and use snail mail only to those who have not sent us their e-mail address, or do not possess an e-mail address. We have found most members are in favour of receiving information by e-mail. We receive hardly any comments about the length of message and format used.

Centre Organisation

In order to comply with our small income, meetings of the full Committee now take place only in conjunction with major meetings or the AGM. Executive meetings are held as necessary for the planning of such events. Cost reduction and rationalisation have been implemented in every respect.

Thanks

At the end of this report, I would like to thank all those who have helped to make our programmes a success. My special thanks go to our Secretary Bernadette Faulkner, our Treasurer Paul Szucs, our Vice Chairman Peter Langheinrich for the MFI News and to our Beirat members, Dr. Peter Nüchter and Martin Wagner, for their excellent contribution of auditing the MFI accounts and to our Events Organisation Committee Alec Clelland, Edward Hopper, Derek Mullinger and Philip Walters.

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