

HISTORY OF THE CONFERENCE SERIES

- a. CONFERENCE HISTORY. The International Conference on Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves (IRMMW-THz), is the oldest and largest continuous forum specifically devoted to the field of ultra high frequency electronics and applications. The first conference in this series, named *the First International Conference on Submillimeter Waves and their Applications*, was held at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta in 1974 under the co-sponsorship of the IEEE Society on Microwave Theory and Techniques and the Optical Society of America. The General Chair was James J. Gallagher of the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Program Chair was Kenneth J. Button of the MIT Francis Bitter National Magnet Laboratory. In his Foreword to the Conference Digest, Ken Button predicted that the Conference would “be the first of a long series because the submillimeter wave specialty has become well-defined and moderately well populated.”
- b. This prediction was very prescient and the Conference has grown into a respected and self sustaining event that has now spanned more than three decades, thanks, in large part, to the efforts of Ken Button. The first three meetings (1974, 1976 and 1978) were held bi-annually, but beginning with the 4th meeting in 1979, the conference series was renamed as the International Conference on Infrared and Millimeter Waves (IRMMW) and was held annually. The Conference also began to rotate between locations inside and outside the United States. Ken Button became the conference coordinator and in 1979, coupled the conference to the International Journal of Infrared and Millimeter Waves, which published the conference proceedings. The appeal of Florida in the northern hemisphere’s winter time anchored the US series to an early December schedule, which remained through the 20th venue in 1995. When the conference was held outside of the United States, it was typically held in the fall or early spring. Between 1974 and 1999, the Conference was held in either the US or Europe, except for two meetings in Japan (1984 and 1994).
- c. Starting with the year 2000, when the Conference was held in China, it was decided to institute a three-way rotation for the Conference between Asia, Europe and the United States. The conference date settled out to the September time frame as a good compromise between weather conditions in all three regions and lack of overlap with other popular meetings. This ternary schedule remains today and is affirmed by the current By-Laws as the preferred schedule for future conferences.
- d. In 2004 an agreement to couple together the then independent European based conference series, International Conference on Terahertz Electronics, with the IRMMW conference resulted in the first joint conference held in Karlsruhe, Germany. The formidable series title now became: Joint 29th International Conference on Infrared and Millimeter Waves and 12th International Conference on Terahertz Electronics. The international organizing committee was greatly expanded to encompass both conference communities at this time, and the joint

event went through one complete three year cycle before the two series were merged in Pasadena, California into the 33rd International Conference on Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves (IRMMW-THz).

- e. CONFERENCE DIGEST. The early conferences (through 1987) held in the US were co-sponsored by IEEE and the Conference Digest was published by the IEEE Press. Conferences held outside of the United States at that time did not have IEEE sponsorship or published proceedings. Conferences 13 (1988) through 18 (1993) were sponsored in part by the SPIE and the Proceedings were published through the SPIE. The SPIE Proceedings enabled the Conference Proceedings to be published and archived whether the Conference was held in the United States or overseas. The agreement with SPIE was dropped after the Eighteenth Conference. A Conference Digest was prepared for Conferences 19 through 24, but the Digest was not archived by the IEEE or the SPIE. Starting with the Twenty-Fifth Conference in 2000, the IEEE has co-sponsored the Conference and has archived the Conference Digest (except for the year 2001). This relationship with IEEE is extremely desirable and is to be maintained via the procedures outlined in these By Laws.
- f. CONFERENCE FUNDING. Historically each local organizing committee has taken full responsibility for funding the annual meeting and no financial disclosures have been required. Funds for maintenance of the conference organizing committee or any other conference related expenses not associated with a specific venue were not accumulated. Conference proceedings were paid for and released under the responsibility of the local organizing committee or host. In 2000, IEEE was brought back as a Technical co-Sponsor of the conference series and beginning in 2008 a small endowment was begun to help pay the expenses of web site maintenance. IEEE dictates the format of the proceedings and pays a small fee to the International Organizing Committee to archive the conference digest. Local sponsorship (financial and technical) is often sought and is the responsibility of the local organizers. Applying for and maintaining IEEE technical co-sponsorship has become the responsibility of the International Organizing Committee (IOC) in recent years and is mandated in these By-Laws as a continuing duty of the IOC chair.
- g. THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (IOC). An International Advisory Committee (IAC) was included at the very first Conference in 1974, in recognition of the strong international nature of the Conference subject material and the need to include scientists from around the world in advising the local committee. The IAC is established by each Conference and the membership is selected by the Local Organizing Committee. The International Organizing Committee (IOC) is distinct from the IAC. The IOC was established in 2000 with the purpose of meeting annually at the Conference to review the attendance and financial results of the annual Conference; and to plan future Conferences, including site selection. The function of the IOC had in effect been previously carried out by Kenneth Button, together with a small and somewhat informal group of dedicated colleagues known as the Program Council. The IOC was established in 2000 to continue this important organizational function, but through a formal Committee system. The first Chair of the IOC was Richard

Temkin (2000-2002), followed by Terence Parker (2003-2005), Koji Mizuno (2006-2008) and Peter Siegel (2009-2011). The present By-Laws are intended to formally codify the rules and regulations of this International Organizing Committee.

- h. As the number of attendees has risen to the 400-600 level in more recent times, and the popularity of terahertz technology and applications has given rise to solicitations for hosting the conference from countries that were not traditionally part of the original ternary cycle, determinations of continental affiliation have been necessary. In 2007/8 the IOC voted to include Russia, Australia and India in the cycle with Asia. Other countries are likely to apply to host the conference in future years and a mechanism for deciding which leg of the ternary cycle should be applied is part of these By-Laws.
- i. Although traditionally the conference falls in the September time frame, this period is not optimal in some locations and a mechanism for re-assigning the conference dates for specific host countries is also part of these By-Laws.
- j. The length of the conference, the format of the sessions, the inclusion and form of the Plenary and Keynote talks, and many other general features of the conference series have converged over the last 10 years into a format which has proven to be very appealing and satisfying for both attendees and organizers. These characteristics have become a recognized hallmark of the IRMMW-THz event and as such are detailed and supported by these By-Laws so as to maintain a winning and familiar format for the future. In addition, specific guidelines for operation and maintenance of the IOC, suggestions and support mechanisms for the local organizing committees (LOC), and an interface to the attendees themselves are hereby enumerated and detailed in these pages.
- k. **FORMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY.** In May 2009 the IOC agreed to a more permanent presence and incorporated into a mutual benefit non-profit filed with the state of California, USA and titled: International Society of Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves. The organization's charter is to promote the worldwide collection, dissemination and exchange of scientific and technical knowledge in the areas and disciplines involving infrared, millimeter and terahertz waves. Folded into the society are all the IOC functions described in these articles including but not limited to, (1) organizing, overseeing and maintaining the International Conference on Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves, (2) promoting and interacting with the Journal of Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves, (3) serving as a host organization and distribution agency for the executors of the Institute of Physics Kenneth J. Button Prize.