



## URSI Presidents Newsletter

30 September 2014

To the:

Board,  
Commission Chairs, Vice Chairs, ECRs and Past Chairs,  
AT-RASC Organising Committee,  
Young Scientists Committee,  
Council.

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter this new and exciting period for URSI I feel that it is important that we all – the Board and Secretariat, Council Members, Commission Officers, the Past Chairs Advisory Committee (PCAC) and other dedicated supporters of URSI remain in contact. Consequently, I have decided that a President's Newsletter every couple of months would be useful for us all. May I ask that the Council members circulate this to their national Committees as well?

Please don't expect the most refined of English and please forgive me if I am late with a newsletter. This one will likely be longer than most.

*And as you may expect there are some reminders of outstanding actions - shown in red!!*

### Overview

In the month or so since we said goodbye in Beijing a lot has happened. Because of the upcoming AT-RASC and because this is a new meeting we have had no period of grace. I realise that we are asking a lot of a number of you – so thank you.

### The Board

We have decided that this triennium each of the Board members will have responsibility for specific issues. The agreed responsibilities are:

*Prof. U.S. Inan will serve as Treasurer*

*Prof. Y.M.M. Antar will be responsible for "National Membership"*

*Prof. S. Ananthakrishnan will be responsible for "Individual Membership"*

*Prof. M. Ando will be responsible for the AP-RASC negotiations.*

In later newsletters I will ask them to provide you with brief updates.

Moreover each VP has agreed to mentor specific Commissions and the Commission Officers are invited to contact the appropriate Board members when they need help.

*Prof. S. Ananthkrishnan Commission E & J*

*Prof. M. Ando Commission B & C & K*

*Prof. U.S. Inan Commission G & H & F*

*Prof. Y.M.M. Antar Commission A & D*

### Membership and Mailing Lists

The Board have also started discussing how we implement individual membership and the associated issue of a database of URSI supporters. We have agreed that we ultimately need the following information (but in the interim we will need to work with less).

*Title, Given Name, Family Name, Email address (1), Email address (2), Country, Primary Commission, Secondary Commission, membership category, URSI Role.*

It is probably worth saying at this point that URSI's biggest weakness is an absence of a consolidated database. Commissions G and J do have a database – but I don't think the others do. The Secretariat has a database consisting of attendees at previous GASS, but only at GASS-2014 was the primary Commission affiliation recorded.

*Can I please remind all the Commission Chairs that they agreed to either scrub their current databases or develop a database by the end of September? Anything is better than nothing and the Secretariat will reformat what you have and help you build it up over time.*

*Information from National URSI Committees is also sought from Council members.*

### Commissions

Here, our biggest change is the introduction of ECRs and its associated committee chaired by Stefan Wijnholds. The ECRs have already been very active. You may recall that the ECRs requested more general lectures at AT-RASC and to this end George Uslenghi (who is General Chair of AT-RASC) asked them to nominate speakers – more of this below. I have also asked the ECRs to look at how we might improve our profile as an organisation and they have already provided a draft report.

*Can I please remind all of the Commission Chairs that a report on the Business transacted at the GASS is needed by Ross Stone by 1 December 2014 for publication in RSB?*

### Past Chairs Advisory Committee (PCAC)

The old Long Range Planning Committee is no longer. I agreed with the Board that the name of that committee would change to the Past Chairs Advisory Committee and Lex van Deursen has kindly agreed to Chair this committee. The aim of this name change is to make clear who is on the committee and its function. The Board have agreed that the Secretary General and the President

will be on the committee, primarily to provide a conduit between the Board and PCAC and vice-versa.

The URSI Board are looking for help from PCAC in a number of ways. My first task for PCAC is to discuss where Commission business and processes can be improved.

### AT-RASC

Most of our activity over the last month has been associated with AT-RASC. You will hopefully have received a mailing using the URSI data base of URSI supporters and I draw your attention to the following URLs:

<http://www.ursi.org/en/home.asp> and <http://www.at-rasc.com/call.asp> .

*Please get these details out to your community now and keep repeating the mailing once a month and more often nearer the December deadline. We will risk cross posting!*

George Uslenghi as the General Chair has been very busy and deserves our thanks. He has a good support team consisting of Kazuya Kobayashi (Young Scientists), Madhu Chandra (Advertising); Arnold Ardenne and Joe Wiart (Short Courses and Workshops); Ayhan Altintas (Support and Exhibits) together with Paul Lagasse, Peter van Daele, Ross Stone and me. The Student Paper Competition will be Chaired by Sembian Rengarajan and we are grateful to the USNC for agreeing to sponsor the competition with prizes totalling 1500 USD.

We have already secured two general lectures:

- Arthur D. Yaghjian on the History of Maxwell's Equations
- Hendrik Rogier (Universiteit Gent) on Energy-efficient Textile Antenna Systems for Body-Centric Communication and Sensing.

The following special sessions have been suggested – some may come to fruition some may not and all need the agreement of the respective Commission Chairs.

- High Power Electromagnetics – Commissions E, B (Organizer : Dave Giri) .
- Application of Polarisation and Waveform diversity radars in remote sensing - Commissions F, B (Co-Organizers: Madhu Chandra, Andreas Danklymayer).
- Disaster Management: Modern methods and its technical challenges for radar remote sensing \_ commissions F, B (Co-Organizers: Tullio Tanzi, Madhu Chandra).
- Stochastic methods and techniques in Radio sciences –Commissions B, E, K (Organizer: Joe Wiart).
- Radio Astronomy Systems and enabling components - Commissions J, C, D (Organizer: Arnold Van Ardenne).
- Several Commission B special sessions are being organized under the guidance of Ari Sihvola and Kazuya Kobayashi.
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*Please keep thinking about special sessions – especially those Commissions without any representation as yet.*

A workshop (mainly for the Young Radio scientists) has been proposed on: 'Principles and Methods of Polarisation and Waveform Diversity Radars in Multiparameter Remote Sensing and their application in Disaster management ' Co-speakers: Madhu Chandra(Chemnitz University of Technology), Tullio Tanzi (Paris-Tech), Andreas Danklmayer (Fraunhofer Ges.,Germany), Tobias Rommel (DLR)

In conclusion

I think that is enough for this issue! But before I do I would again like to thank you all for making time to support URSI.

*And of course please don't forget the actions shown in red, especially:*

*Commission Chairs to either scrub their current databases or develop a database by the end of September?*

*Commission Chairs to report on the Business transacted at the GASS to Ross Stone by 1 December 2014 for publication in RSB?*

Yours sincerely,

Paul Cannon  
President URSI