

## Presidents Newsletter



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### Meetings

As I described in my previous newsletter, URSI has adopted a three-year conference cycle of flagship meetings, these being the Atlantic Radio Science (AT-RASC) meeting in the year after the GASS, the Asia-Pacific Radio Science (AP-RASC) meeting in year two, and then the General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (GASS) in year three. AT-RASC (2015) was by common consensus a great success as a scientific meeting, and was enhanced by a wonderful location. We plan to return to Gran Canaria in 2018. I am also pleased to report that this morning the submission site for AP-RASC, to be held in Seoul Korea this coming August, closed with 678 papers submitted. Kazuya Kobayashi as Assistant Secretary General AP-RASC (2018) has worked extraordinarily hard with the local organizing committee to bring this to fruition. More details of this meeting, to be held August 21-25, 2016, in the Grand Hilton Seoul Hotel can be found at <http://aprasc2016.org>. As I write, the program for the GASS (2017) is also maturing, thanks to the efforts of the Commission Chairs and the Scientific Coordinator, Prof Yihua Yan from China (CIE). More details of this meeting, to be held August 19-26, 2017, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, can be found at <http://gass2017.org>.

### MOU with IEEE AP-S

Over many years, URSI has worked closely with the Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S) of the IEEE. In North America this has involved joint meetings, but there has been much behind-the-scenes cooperation, not least the option of indexing of our URSI meeting papers on IEEE Xplore. For many Commissions, this has been extremely valuable, making authored papers available to the wider scientific public. As a consequence of an initiative instigated last year, I am pleased to announce that an MOU has now been signed between URSI and IEEE AP-S, formalizing this relationship, and making clear our mutual obligations to promote each other's meetings. Moreover, URSI will now provide reduced meeting registration fees to AP-S members and, as a quid pro quo, AP-S will reduce the meeting registration fees to URSI members.

### Membership, Fellowship, and Associate Membership

After taking further informal soundings, the Board has recently agreed to the adoption of an individual membership scheme. The aims and purposes of this major innovation will be explained in a separate article. Suffice to say that it is through this membership scheme that you will be able to prove your membership of URSI and directly benefit from the MOU with AP-S. Rollout of the Fellowship is scheduled for June 1, 2016, and the Membership and Associate Membership grades by September 1, 2016. The Secretariat will of course be writing to the Member Committees before this happens to explain how the scheme will work.

### Distinguished Service Award

At its March meeting, the Board also approved this new award, to be made for the first time at the GASS in 2017. It will be presented to individuals for outstanding service to URSI over a period of time. Again, the Secretariat will write to Member Committees before this happens to explain how the scheme will work.

### Publications

As you probably know, *Radio Science* is published by AGU, but is considered an URSI logo journal. In practice, this means that URSI contributes to the appointment of the Editor-in-Chief (currently, Dr. Phil Wilkinson), and we take an active interest in ensuring its success. In this context, I am very pleased to announce that, after lobbying by URSI, AGU has negotiated for *Radio Science* to be indexed and made available on IEEE Xplore. This should enhance the journal impact factor by making its publications easier to find and download. This must surely be good for both the journal and the authors. As you can see, we have been quite busy!

With very kind regards and best wishes,

Prof. Paul Cannon  
URSI President