

ASCE TCCP  
DATABASE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 8, 1998, 13:00 CDT  
Teleconference

ATTENDEES: (8)

Martin Fischer (MF), Stanford University, fischer@ce.stanford.edu  
Thomas Froese (TF), University of British Columbia, tfroese@civil.ubc.ca (Secretary)  
Rajaram Ganeshan (RG), Information Science Institute at USC  
Francois Grobler (FG), USA CERL, f-grobler@cecer.army.mil (Chair)  
Guru Rao (GR), Impact Forecasting  
Paul Scarponcini (PS), Geopact Transportation  
Lisa Spainhour (LS), Florida A&M and Florida State  
Fang Zhao (FZ), Florida Int'l Univ., fang@eng.fiu.edu

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Introduction of participants, review agenda.

## 2. REVIEW OF TCCIT EXCOM MEETING

FG attended the TCCIT Executive Committee Meeting on Sat., April 25. Minutes of this meeting will be distributed. Issues relevant to the DIM committee include the following:

- The former Technical Committee on Computing Practices (TCCP) has been renamed to the Technical Committee on Computing and Information Technologies (TCCIT).
- Each sub-committee was assigned a schedule for producing news items for the ASCE newsletter and the Civil Engineering Magazine. We were on schedule for news items for June, but we've missed this deadline.
- There have been many organization changes within ASCE. Only one person from the previous group of staff that arrange conferences, etc. remains.
- ASCE is trying to find ways to become more streamlined and successful in conferences, etc. It is looking to committees to produce tutorials, packages that could be presented at local chapters, etc.
- There will be a session on Civil Computing at the AEC show in Chicago in June, and ASCE will have a table with posters, etc. for different committees. The DIM committee should come

up with a list of about 5 main topic areas that it represents to go on a poster. Suggestions from the committee include the following:

- IT for infrastructure management
- Data mining
- Uncertainty and risk analysis
- Visualization
- Spatial database management systems
- Standards
- Temporal databases and GIS
- Materials databases
- Object libraries and information bases
- Product and process model standards
- Distributed engineering systems

ACTION FG

- The 5th Congress on Computing in Civil Engineering is in Boston in October 98. EXCOM was pleased with organization. Several problems from the DIM Committee's perspective were noted, for example:

- The process of handling paper submission did not seem particularly efficient. For example, the peer-review and very long lead time promotes traditional academic papers and discourages industry papers.

- There was very little input from the technical subcommittees
- Non of the proposed non-paper sessions were accepted.

- The 6th Congress, will be at Stanford in the 3rd week of August, 2000. The theme is "Bringing the professions together again. Innovations and solutions in computing technology." (There is no Computing Congress in 1999).

- EXCOM approved DIM meeting for July.

- EXCOM approved the selection of control members for the DIM committee.

## 2. POSSIBILITY OF MERGING WITH AI&ES COMMITTEE

- Comments generally seem to be in favor of this option. The topic was deferred to the July Committee meeting. In the mean time, one joint activity agreed to between the two committees is the development of a taxonomy of computer and IT technologies for Civil Engineering. We will begin working on this via e-mail. ACTION FG, TF, ALL.

## 3. SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE COMPUTING JOURNAL

William Rasdorf has approved the idea of a special issue of the Computing in CE Journal to be prepared by the DIM Committee. The tentative topic is IT for Lifecycle Infrastructure Management. The whole process takes about 12 to 18 months. There are 2 other special issues in the works from the Education group and the Imaging and remote sensing group. We need a

committee of people willing to collaborate on the special issue. Some of the tasks include finalizing the topic, soliciting papers, writing a forward, administering the paper review process, writing an overview paper, etc. Jeff Write from Purdue has expressed interest. TF, LS, PS, GR, RG, and FG were also willing to collaborate. FG will distribute information on the requirements and a proposed initial startup plan. ACTION FG.

#### 4. REVIEW OF GOALS

Deferred.

#### 5. ORGANIZE MEETING

A committee meeting on July 16th in conjunction with IAI meetings in Washington, DC. was proposed. This did not seem to be convenient for many members. FG will propose a meeting schedule. ACTION FG

#### 6. SELECTION OF CONTROL GROUP

The committee needs to re-assign control group members. Control group members are expected to be active participants in committee activities. FG will distribute requirements for control group members and distribute an invitation for people to volunteer. ACTION FG.

MEETING ADJOURNED 14:00 CDT

MINUTES SUBMITTED: TF (secretary), FG (Chair), May 11, 1998