

IAHR Experimental Methods and Instrumentation Committee

Contributions for an EMI Strategic Plan

Preamble

The Technical Committees (TC) of IAHR are composed of IAHR members that choose them as their affiliation and by a Leadership Team, elected every two years, headed by a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Past Chair. They may have strong links with partners outside the IAHR.

There is no template to structure Technical Committees and they are not required to devise a strategic plan to guide their activities across successive LT terms. This weak link between successive LT terms is not necessarily negative. It may allow for a display of diversity of means and methods in managing the TC and may bring forward creative adaptation strategies in face of adverse conditions. However, it is more likely that the lack of a broadly accepted plan, involving and committing two or more successive LT terms, will decrease resilience and incur in paralysis or waste of resources. Furthermore, a long-term vision will certainly allow that valid projects, in which the EMI-LT invests, can become flagship initiatives and promote the global voice of IAHR. The current LT of EMI strongly believes that a Strategic Plan, aligned with IAHR's, to be updated every four years, will promote a shared vision that can guide and render effective EMI's actions.

The timing for an EMI Strategic Plan (EMI-SP) is not accidental. COVID19 pandemics has loosened the ties of all communities, as the strong inter-personal links have been substituted by more ethereal on-line contacts. Hydrosensof, the EMI conference, has been put on hold indefinitely, partly because there were major uncertainties on the relevance of such an event if it held on-line. The monograph "Experimental Hydraulics" has been finished and published (in 2017). Hence, two major events, that have channelled the efforts of EMI members and effectively served as structuring events, are no longer in place.

The EMI Chairs team could not be indifferent to this state of affairs. More than devising ad hoc action that could grow into mobilizing and structuring events, it was felt that the correct way to proceed would be to devise a strategic plan encompassing a new structure for the LT and the procedures by which needs for action are identified, concrete responses are devised and communication strategies are implemented. Working with the current LT, the key points of the EMI-SP have been devised and are stated below.

Priority areas

The EMI committee recognizes the need to address the following priority areas.

1. IAHR Networking

1.1 A strong interaction with other IAHR structures is needed. Actions within this thread will contribute to facilitate communication among members and IAHR, among members of different TC and divisions thus promoting an informed sense of community. This thread interweaves with 4.2.

1.2 A long-term collaboration with the YPN must be established. This thread interweaves with 3.3.

1.3 The links between EMI and Regional Divisions must be deepened. The EMI Committee is proud to have members of all Divisions but, lately, Europe has been overrepresented in the LT, which may introduce a bias on the type and scope of events to be organized, promoted or sponsored by EMI. This thread interweaves with threads 2.3, 3.1 and 3.3.

1.4 Strategies for the formation and coordination of Working Groups (WG), possibly involving other TCs, following , must be implemented. This thread interweaves with 3.3 and 4.2.

2. Building a broader community

2.1 The modes of interaction of practitioners, academic or non-academic, and developers of instrumentation (industry or non-profit) need specific attention. A database of users and manufacturers of instrumentation and producers of software must be built and maintained, to inform decisions about the relevant modes of interaction.

2.2 Initiatives to support free software or communally developed hardware or software can be devised. Again, this requires a who's-who map of users, manufacturers and producers of hardware and software. Initiatives may require specific protocols with industry suppliers or academic entities, that must be in accordance with IAHR by-laws and remaining legal apparatus.

2.3 A plan is needed to discern the most adequate events to bring together manufacturers (for profit or non-profit) and users (academic or non-academic). This thread interweaves with 1.3 and 3.1

3. Dissemination and Outreach

3.1 A strategy and criteria to define the structuring technical and scientific events, organized by EMI, is needed. As of April 2021, EMI does not have a specific conference but has invested a significant deal of resources in organizing thematic session in several Technical conferences, even outside IAHR. On the other hand, initiatives like the hands-on course W.A.T.E.R., have become central events of the EMI but have focused essentially on the European space. A binding strategy for the growth and

consolidation of inclusive and global events is the object of this thread. This thread interweaves with 1.3 and 2.3.

3.2 Guidelines to decide EMI support of events or promotion of other TC initiatives should be developed.

3.3 This thread is aimed at coordinating outreach initiatives and to explore the realm of possibilities provided by IAHR channels. The current pandemic situation (as of April 2021) has greatly increased the number of on-line events and on-line material and feeds. Competition is strong and enhanced communication techniques are needed. This thread interweaves with 5.

4. Production and consolidation of knowledge

4.1 A strategy for production of books and monographs, aligned with the existing IAHR channels for that effect, should be devised.

4.2 Actions aimed at bringing together EMI members or, in general IAHR members, to find joint funding opportunities, to collaborate in producing technical papers or reports, to conduct experiments, benchmarks or assessment of software or hardware must be encouraged. This requires effective communication strategies among members. This thread interweaves with 1.1 and 1.4

5. Envisaging the future and addressing global changes

In these times of change, producing and projecting a vision for EMI is of paramount importance. This can be achieved through the production of vision or white papers, coordinated with outreach initiatives of EMI. This thread interweaves with 3.3

Temporary provisions

Structuring the EMI Leadership Team

The EMI committee is formally composed of a Leadership Team (LT) and affiliates. The leadership team has the responsibility to fulfil the mission of EMI.

Currently, there is no direct assignment of specific area of intervention areas to LT members, except in what concerns Co-Opted members. Linking elected and co-opted LT members to the priority areas above could prove beneficial to pursue the agenda of the EMI committee.

In this sense, both the elective process and the co-option process should be oriented to incorporate in the EMI LT, members that are committed to put forward the EMI Strategic Plan. In other words, candidates to the LT would be in fact candidates to specific roles to pursue the priority areas listed above.

Approval and duration of the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan should be approved by the EMI committee in an extraordinary assembly, before June 2021. Should be presented to a broader audience in the IAHR Forum in July 2021.

The Strategic Plan should be revised every 4 years or by initiative of the Chairs of the EMI LT when appropriate.

2nd April 2021

Rui M.L. Ferreira, EMI Chair

Massimo Guerrero, EMI Vice-chair

AlessioRadice, EMI Past Chair