



What is IMS?

The Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) initiative encourages the formation of international research consortia to address 21st century manufacturing challenges. The scheme aims to boost industrial competitiveness, solve problems facing manufacturing worldwide, and develop advanced manufacturing technologies and systems to benefit humanity. IMS members currently include the EU, Norway, Korea, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America.

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The European IMS Secretariat
 c/o European Commission

IMS Cordis Website:
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Editorial

On 1 November 2007, the IMS Chair moved from Korea to Switzerland. This is one of the reasons why the European IMS community held a few days ago its 2007 Seminar in Zürich, Switzerland. More than 120 persons from industry and the academic world attended this workshop. We will report in more detail about this event in our next Newsletter, e.g. before Christmas.

In this Newsletter we feature an interview with the former IMS Managing Director, Dr B-W Choi, who shares with us his experience of the past 30 months.

Next month's Newsletter will host an editorial by Mr. Michel Poireau, Head of Unit "Horizontal Aspects & Coordination" in the Industrial Technologies Programme of the European Commission. He will announce the NMP Work Programme for 2008 and what is in there for the IMS community.

Some of you will receive this Newsletter for the first time. We hope you will find reading it a rewarding experience. You may also refer for further information about IMS and on how to get involved in it on the websites mentioned below.

Erastos Filos
 European IMS Secretariat, Brussels

Interview with Dr B-W Choi, IMS Managing Director

The IMS Chair was held by Korea from May 2005 until October 2007. It is a good time, we thought, to ask our Korean colleague, Dr. Byung-Wook Choi, to look back on 30 months of Korean IMS chairmanship:

1. Dr. Choi, you have been managing the Inter-regional Secretariat at the start of IMS Phase II. What was the most interesting experience for you during this difficult time?



The Inter-regional Secretariat (IRS) is the administrative arm of IMS and rotates every 30 months along with the change in chairmanship of the organisation. Opening a new office is a challenge in itself, but to add to this, the IMS trusted Korea to oversee the launch of Phase II. Our challenge was to bridge what we had learned in Phase I while keeping our minds open to respond to new challenges in advancing manufacturing science and technology. To accomplish this goal, we initiated a visionary forum at the early stage of our work to discover the "Direction of Innovation in Manufacturing for the Next-Generation Growth Engines." From start to finish the organisation of the IMS Vision Forum 2006 took us six months, e.g. inviting global experts to not only discuss this topic but also, to suggest how IMS should align itself to support this vision with its programme. This was the most interesting experience on several levels. First, conducting a meeting of this size and strategic importance put a strong pressure on the staff. We had to make many adjustments in our working styles. It forced each one to work as a team. Second, we needed global cooperation to accomplish this task and were challenged to work in the same manner as we expect our researchers to work, e.g. on a multilateral basis, with balance and equity. We carefully selected keynote speakers, group discussants, and other experts so that we could truly have a balanced

News

On 14 November 2007 the 2nd Europe-Japan IMS Workshop was held in Zürich. The workshop aimed at identifying R&D objectives for future joint activities under IMS. Around 30 participants attended, mostly EU, Swiss and Japanese. The presentations and other contributions will be made available in the coming days, under:
cordis.europa.eu/ims/src/events.htm

IMS Seminar: Strategies for Global Manufacturing - A European View of IMS, Zürich, 15-16 November 2007

The Seminar was organised jointly by the EU and the Swiss IMS Secretariats at the Swiss Federal University of Technology (ETH). It aimed to facilitate discussion amongst European experts on global manufacturing R&D and in particular on the new strategy of the Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) initiative.

Five parallel sessions were held,

- (a) on "Sustainable Manufacturing",
- (b) on "Manufacturing Interoperability and Standards",
- (c) on "Industrial Integration of ICT",
- (d) on "Global Education in Manufacturing Strategy", and
- (e) on "Key Technologies".

The reports and contributions to this event will be made available soon under:

cordis.europa.eu/ims/src/event-2007.htm



Newsletter

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global view. Through this effort, and all IMS member regions working together in a coordinated manner, we got successful outcomes. Third, after the forum was completed, our team compiled the results and published them so that they could be used as a reference both inside and outside IMS. Fourth and last, the IMS International Steering Committee (ISC) has just launched the Manufacturing Technology Platforms (MTP) concept based on recommendations from the IMS Vision Forum 2006.

2. What are the main achievements (highlights) of Korean IMS chairmanship?

We have worked with the Regional Secretariats collaboratively to make our vision a reality, and I believe the Korean IRS has reached some important milestones under the ISC strategy under the direction of ISC Chairman, Dr. Kwan Rim. We have held the IMS Vision Forum successfully with world experts and over 180 attendees, and published the Vision Forum proceedings as a book. Our work was devoted to re-working the IMS marketing strategy under a new corporate identity (involving our newsletter, the annual reports and other presentation material). Another major milestone was re-inventing the old and rather flat IMS web site into a web portal with new and more content, interactive tools, and services for researchers. The new web portal is said to be intuitive, informative, and a useful resource. As our final gift to the IMS community, we compiled a book incorporating all the research results that have been conducted under the IMS umbrella since 1995. We compiled this information so that a reader can find a summary of research results, and then drill down to more detailed information if desired. We believe that non-researchers and researchers alike will benefit from reading this book. There were a lot of opportunities presented to us during the last 30 months, and we are very grateful for all the cooperation and support we received.

3. How do you see IMS develop in the future?

I believe we will continue to elaborate and accelerate the MTP initiatives resulting in more researchers getting together, talking, and forming projects and other joint research activities. This will position IMS towards the centre of the research community and as a forum in which researchers can meet and discuss challenges, ideas, or can pool resources. In the same manner, I believe that IMS will reach out to other organisations and form new synergies. Although we are the only global multi-lateral R&D programme, there are other organisations that we could ask to join our efforts for common workshops, publications, or research initiatives. Finally, I believe IMS will expand its mission by conducting more research focused meetings, increasing the number of publications, and enlarging its membership to include other regions interested in advanced manufacturing research. IMS will improve its mission as the leading organisation not only for industry, but also for the academic research community in the manufacturing field.

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Events

Constructing a Sustainably Competitive Europe: MANUFUTURE 2007
Conference, 2-4 December, Porto. See details under:
manufuture2007.inescporto.pt/

FP7 Manufacturing:
Building on the outstanding success of its predecessor of 2007, The Manufacturing in FP7 Conference 2008 aims to provide indepth information about the manufacturing topics addressed in both Theme 3 (Information & Communication Technologies - ICT) and Theme 4 (Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies - NMP) of the European 7th Framework Programme. 16-17 January 2008, Cardiff, UK. See details under:
fp7manufacturing.iproms.org/

Call for Papers FAIM2008 (IMS special tracks):

18th Int'l Conference on Flexible Automation and Intelligent Manufacturing, 30 June - 2 July 2008, Skövde, Sweden
www.faim2008.org

At the IMS Seminar in Zürich, it was suggested to make use of existing conferences to publish IMS project results as well as for networking. When submitting an abstract through the abstract submission link please make sure to select "IMS special tracks" as first topic for your abstract. If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Secretariat at, info@faim2008.org or the General Chair, Professor Leo J De Vin under, leo.devin@his.se

FAIM2008 also welcomes any suggestions for using the conference as an event to publish IMS results.