



Annual General Meeting 2004: Chairman's report

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It is my privilege as the Chairman of the Management Committee of the International Press Telecommunications Council to say a few words at this 39th Annual General Meeting.

I believe that this has been a good year for the company. Financially we continue to be in a strong position, the IPTC continues to be recognized as a quality developer of international standards, membership remains strong, and I congratulate Michael Steidl on making it through a complete cycle of meetings and all of the related issues.

In order to accomplish the business of the company, the Management Committee had three regular meetings.

Operating Changes

There is a proposal before the membership to make some changes to the Articles of the Company. If approved, the Management Committee will have the flexibility to create membership opportunities for companies from parts of the world that are economically challenged.

The second major change is in the area of standards development. The agreement to implement a formal project management process will ensure that IPTC standards continue to meet the business needs of the industry and maintain their high quality. Additionally, vice chairs have been named for the standards development committees. This will help smooth the running of meetings when the chair cannot be present.

Finances

Heinrich Stadler will be making the formal presentation of the finances shortly. I am happy to report that the Council finished the in good shape. This means that the company remains within the required capital requirements. There are also sufficient funds to cover the development of NewsML 2.

Membership

IPTC stands at 28 full members and 27 associate members, representing 36 full shares and 27 fractional shares. This is up one full and three associate members from last year.

Outreach

The council has made several efforts to increase its outreach to the world beyond IPTC. The IPTC website has been re-engineered to be more user friendly. This makes information more accessible to non-member visitors. The members section is seeing more activity as the changing world of e-mail has made it safer to have members download papers rather than sending them directly. Issues of the IPTC Mirror and Spectrum are also distributed via the web site.

The IPTC co-sponsored a News Summit prior to the XML 2003 conference. The summit was well attended with almost 100 registrants. The presentations covered a wide range of topics relating to the xml-based distribution of news and information. The sharing of ideas was quite positive. Unfortunately, the standards may not converge due primarily to differences in the requirements associated mostly with end user versus business-to-business applications.

The various standards development groups continue to make good use of Yahoo groups. This allows interested parties to be more aware of the standards development activities of the IPTC. It also facilitates the speed at which our standards are developed.



The Standards Committee studied the possibility of doing joint standards development with OASIS. The investigation indicated that it was not feasible at this time.

A member survey was undertaken to both inform and solicit information. There were not many responses and, as a result, the information was only marginally useful.

The IPTC was happy to participate in the 2nd Chinese NewsML Symposium in conjunction with AGM in Hong Kong.

Standards Development

The major new activity in standards development was the agreement to create a standards roadmap. This will provide a consistent development process for all of the IPTC standards. It will also encourage sharing of like definitions across IPTC standards. The project management process will also support the roadmap by requiring new project to fit into the framework.

In other standards activities:

- * NITF v3.2 was approved.
- * NewsML v1 guidelines released.
- * NewsML v business requirements development continues to move forward.
- * SportsML continues to move forward and has increasing interest.
- * ProgramGuideML development has been completed and has been approved as a release candidate. It is looking for new development leadership. Several members have expressed interest in implementing it.
- * EventsML business requirements are well in hand. The standard should follow on quickly.
- * The SRS terms list continues to grow.
- * WeatherML was approved as the first IPTC standard to be developed under the project management process.
- * Adobe has asked the IPTC to work with them to allow for the support of IPTC metadata as part of the xmp coded information in Adobe Photoshop files.

and

- * Preliminary work is being done to study the conversion of IPTCs existing standards from dtd to schema.

Finally, we had a very successful meeting in the Athens. This included a visit to a number of the Olympic venues. I wish well all who must work the Olympics this summer.

It is with great regret that I accept the resignation of Naoshi Hashimoto from the IPTC Management Committee. I would like thank Naoshi Hashimoto for his service to the IPTC and its Management committee. He is retiring from the IPTC due to other commitments. The management committee expects to co-opt his replacement Hitoshi Saito, whom some of you know, to the management committee.

This concludes my report. Thank you for your attention and support.

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