Annual General Meeting 2005: Chairman's Report

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Report at the Annual General Meeting 2005, 9 June 2005, London

It is my privilege as the Chairman of the Management Committee of the International Press Telecommunications Council to say a few words at this 40th Annual General Meeting. As this is my final report as your Chairman, I would like to thank you for your support over the last three years.

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, and membership remains strong.

To accomplish the business of the company, the management committee had three regular meetings. In addition, there were several telephone meetings to work out the details associated with changes to the Operating Procedures.

Operating Changes

The membership approved changes to the Operating Procedures of the Company. As a result, a number of definitions have been added or modified. The membership categories were extensively reviewed and expanded to include an Associate Member category targeted to interested parties from economically distressed areas and academic institutions.

A separate paper is being developed to cover IPTC intellectual property and technology licenses. When approved, it will be available on the website.

Hitoshi Saito joined the Management Committee, replacing Naoshi Hashimoto. Klaus Sprick retired from the Management Committee, IPTC and DPA at the end of the year.

Finances

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

Membership

IPTC stands at 28 full members and 27 associate members, representing 37 full shares and 27 fractional shares. This is up one full share from last year, although the membership size has remained stable, with generally the same number of companies joining as leaving.

Outreach

The Council continues to improve its outreach to the world beyond IPTC.

The Web site remains the primary information source for news and information about the IPTC. This is a great source of information for non-member visitors. The members' section provides a safe method for members to download papers rather than having to deal with the security issues associated with attachments. Issues of the IPTC Mirror and Spectrum are also distributed via the Web site.

Ifra and NAA both provided presentation opportunities at their annual meetings. This provided a forum to get information on the IPTC standards and new program of work out to the general public - especially manufacturers who will be building systems that use them.

The IPTC cosponsored the second News Summit last month prior to the XML 2005 European conference. The summit was well attended, with almost 50 participants. Presentations covered a wide range of topics relating to the xml-based distribution of news and information. The sharing of ideas continues to be quite positive.

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 improves the speed at which our standards are developed.

The Public Relations Committee continues to do good work. At least one press release is produced for each meeting. Interim press releases are generated to cover special events such as the completion of the joint IPTC-Adobe XMP project.

Standards Development

Preparation for the development and initial specification of the News Architecture has been the major standards activity during the past year. This will provide a consistent development process for all of the IPTC's standards.

Consultants were engaged to help complete the specifications for a new architecture. The cooperative effort between IPTC members and the consultants was quite successful and the membership should be pleased with the work that has been developed.

The completion of the architecture opens the door to the development of NewsML 2 and a suite of common components to be used across all IPTC standards. Other IPTC standards can then be moved into the new architecture.

Other standards activities:

* NITF continues to see new implementations. It has seen minimal change over the last year.

* SportsML continues to move forward with increasing interest. An additional plug-in has been created to support motor racing.

* NewsCodes work continues. Numerous entries have been added to the NewsCodes. Johan Lindgren's efforts to keep the viewer current are appreciated.

*and Adobe and the IPTC completed work on the development of templates that support the inclusion of IPTC metadata as part of the xmp coded information in Adobe Photoshop files.

Finally

We had very successful meetings in both Amsterdam and San Diego. Our next session together will be in Milan with a trip to Turin on Thursday to visit the Olympic facilities. Please make sure that you prepare to meet the Olympic Committee representatives, as they will be an important source of information as you plan your activities.

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