

Minutes online board meeting September 8 2020

Present: Martin, Inga, Wander, Karl (via Skype), Claire, Fumiya, Nina, Henrik, Pei-shan

Not present: Iasonas

1. Conferences

We have an increase in number of conferences RC33 is involved with: ISA World Congress, ISA Forum, RC33 conference, regional conference Asia, regional conferences of SMUS conferences etc. It is difficult as a board to attend all conferences. Regional conferences serve a specific (local) goal. It is good if some board members attend, but the goal of regional conferences is foremost for regional participants. The biggest problem is the combination of the Forum and RC33 conference, typically scheduled in the same year so that it is difficult to attend both. We agreed that having our own RC33 conference is more important to members than the Forum. We will work together with other RCs to fill time slots and make sure we have a representative at the Forum in case important issues are discussed during the Forum. We will not merge our RC33 conference with the Forum.

2. Membership

Because we do not have a conference in 2020 (due to postponement of the Cyprus conference to 2021), we lose members. ISA membership is stable, but we did not receive many new RC33-only members in 2020, and many memberships will expire in 2021. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that we organize something in 2021. It is not clear yet if the Cyprus conference, scheduled in September 2021, can proceed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It might also be a smaller scale conference. Maybe we even have to consider postponing it again. We all agree that we prefer to have a face-to-face conference over an online conference. A hybrid conference – where we combine online and offline- is also not preferred because you seem to have the downside of both online and offline. We discuss in January 2021 how to proceed with the RC33 Cyprus conference. If we do something online, we can combine it with the SMUS Conference in Botswana. Another idea is to do online webinars. Nina will think about how to combine online activities with SMUS.

3. Finances

Finances are stable, but we do not get many new members. A huge amount of money goes to BMS. The question is: is it worth it? Vera and Karl will talk to Sage to negotiate if we can skip the paper copies for RC33 members who do not need paper copies, and hence reduce the BMS fees (4 euro per year per member).

4. Newsletter

Due to changes in BMS there is less room for RC33 information in the paper BMS journal. Therefore, Karl has shifted some information (such as important papers and opinion pieces) to the online newsletter. Some members have expressed a negative opinion on that. We agree that we do not use the newsletter for communication such as opinion pieces. We refer to the Forum on our website for people who would like to share their opinion on important matters. We keep the weekly newsletters as they are. We will explore the option of sending out a professional newsletter twice a year as an official communication outlet of the board. Claire will ask Chantelle for a quote.

5. Website

Most traffic on the website is related to information about the conference. Also the blog is well read. Strikingly, most website visitors come from the United States. Since we do not have many members from the US, this might be a region where we can increase membership. How, we can discuss in the next board meeting in January 2020.

6. RC33 Cyprus conference

To be discussed in January

7. Regional conference Japan

It was not possible to postpone to 2023 due to a change of board in 2022 (ISA does not allow current board members to schedule meetings later than their schedule on the board). Schedule is now 12-16 september 2022. Probably via Teams/Zoom/Google.

8. Regional conference Botswana

Hopefully in Autumn 2021 face-to-face. Maybe online. Other conferences from GSUS will likely be in autumn instead of winter, to keep them one year apart. Botswana conference needs to take place in 2021 due to budget restrictions.

9. Awards

Postponed, to be awarded at the next RC33 conference. We had many submissions (about 18) submitted from across the world. We will send out a new call/update before the next RC33 conference (hopefully in September 2021 in Cyprus). Some people submitted several papers to the same award.

Next board meeting will be planned for January 2021 via Teams.

Actions:

Karl/Vera: discuss with BMS and later Sage options to decrease fees for the BMS journal

Claire: ask Chantelle a quote for an online newsletter 2 a year

Inga: send a kind email to RC33 members to acknowledge their loyalty and ask them kindly to keep supporting RC33 in the future (and prolong their membership)

Nina: think about online activities in combination with GSUS.