

IUTAM's Mission

IUTAM's mission is to encourage the development and application of all branches of the science of mechanics throughout the world.

History

IUTAM's history started at a conference in 1922 in Innsbruck/Austria where it was suggested by von Kármán that an international congress including the whole domain of applied mechanics should be held. Already in 1924 the first International Congress was held in Delft/The Netherlands and an International Committee was formed. At this first congress, 207 scientists met and about 50 papers were presented. After an interruption during the Second World War, the Sixth Congress was held in Paris/France. Following a proposal by the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) on September 26, 1946 IUTAM was formally constituted in Paris. One year later in 1947 IUTAM was accepted into ICSU. Interestingly, in this early period the structure of IUTAM was defined and statutes were prepared which are close to those still in use today. During the 7th International Congress in London in September 1948 the first Bureau was appointed and the General Assembly and several committees were instituted. By 1952, 18 countries had already joined IUTAM (today there are 47 Adhering Organizations of IUTAM from different countries) and in 1949 the first IUTAM symposium was held.



Participants of the First International Congress for Applied Mechanics, held in Delft in 1924. Photo provided by F.T.M. Nieuwstadt

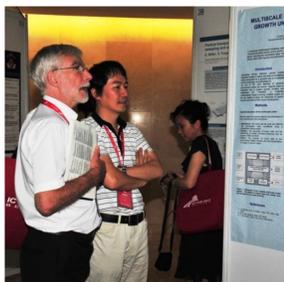
Main Activities

The principal objectives of IUTAM are stated in its statutes:

- to form a link between persons and organizations engaged in scientific work in all branches of theoretical and applied mechanics and related sciences, including analytical, computational and experimental investigations;
- to organize international congresses of theoretical and applied mechanics through a standing Congress Committee, and to organize other international meetings for subjects falling within the field of theoretical and applied mechanics;
- to engage in other activities meant to promote development of mechanics, both theoretical and applied, as a branch of science.

IUTAM Symposia and Summer Schools

The aim of any IUTAM Symposium is to assemble a select group of active scientists within a well-defined field for the development of science in that field. Participation is reserved for invited participants and a small Scientific Committee is appointed by the Bureau that is responsible for the scientific quality and success.



IUTAM Symposia are approved by the General Assembly in a highly competitive procedure based on the scientific attractiveness and quality of the proposals. A number of IUTAM Summer Schools are also organized in both fluid and solid mechanics mainly for young scientists and have an educational focus.

Since the first proposal in 1949 several hundred Symposia and Summer Schools have been held in many different countries around the globe about all kinds of timely topics in mechanics.

If the organizers of an IUTAM Symposium decide to publish proceedings, the currently recommended form of publication is the IUTAM Book Series.

ICTAM - IUTAM's World Congress

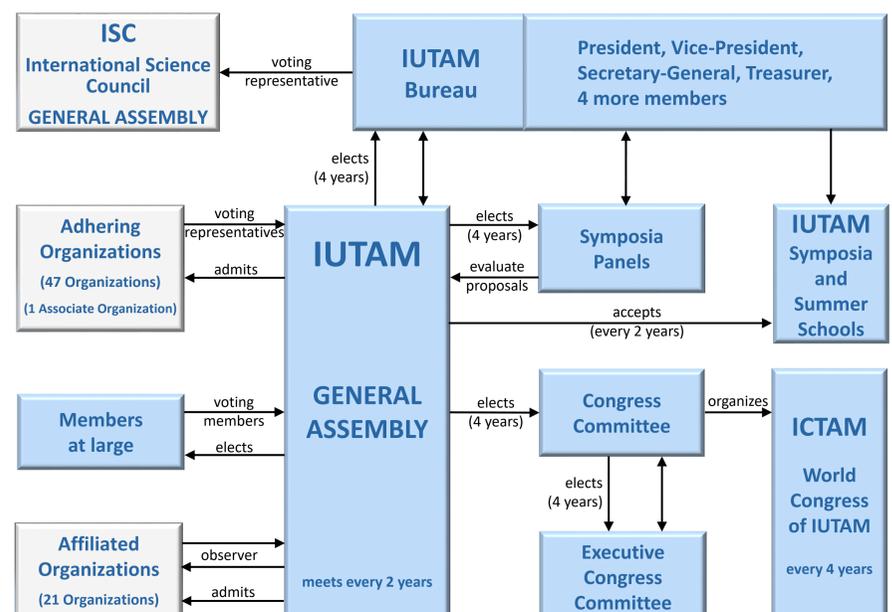
Since the first world congress in Delft in 1924, many congresses have been held all over the world. In 2016 the 24th was held in Montreal/Canada, and the 25th will be held in Milan/Italy.



map: www.commons.wikimedia.org

In Montreal, 2106 participants attended the 24th ICTAM and 1137 talks and 549 posters were presented, demonstrating the activity and scientific resources of the international mechanics community.

Organisational Structure of IUTAM



IUTAM's highest authority is its General Assembly. The IUTAM General Assembly has the power to decide all questions affecting the Union. It is mainly composed of representatives of countries that have Adhering Organizations.

Affiliated Organizations of the Union are international organizations mainly active in sub-fields of mechanics or fields closely related to that of the Union. Each Affiliated Organization has an observer in the IUTAM General Assembly.

The IUTAM Bureau, which is elected by the General Assembly for a four year period, is responsible for the execution of decisions of the General Assembly. Moreover, the General Assembly establishes a standing Congress Committee that is responsible for organizing the ICTAMs at four-year intervals.



Meeting of the IUTAM Bureau and Executive Congress Committee in Rio de Janeiro, 2019.

Contact

IUTAM welcomes suggestions on all issues related to mechanics and our scientific union. Contact information and additional information about IUTAM can be found on our website www.iutam.org.