EDITORIAL

The Society seems to be on one part in a difficult situation concerning its activity and effectivity. On the other hand, it is continuously receiving a great interest from newer and newer potential members. So it seems to us that many people are waiting for several changes considering its everyday work and structure.

The starting of the MEBC Electronic Communications, may give a significant impact/momentum to enhance the Society's effectivity. Until now, more than 200 subscribers exist on the mailserver mebc@ludens.elte.hu. The file server mebc-doc@ludens.elte.hu, and the ftp and gopher sites *ftp.elte.hu* vs *gopher.elte.hu* contain informations about the Society, and can receive inputs from its users. The MEBC WWW Home Page can be accessed at *http://caesar.elte.hu/mebc/* giving access to several links. We would like to call your attention to the new WWW pages 'MEBC Research Groups' and 'Hot Topics' set up and maintained by Klaus-Peter Zauner, member of the GB, Detroit, Mich., USA. These pages are open to include new links to any research groups working on related topics to MEBC—and having access to WWW.

Any suggestions and inputs are most welcome!

Thinking about the 'refreshment' of the Society, we would warmly suggest to hold the next MEBC Symposium (MEBC'98 or '99) together with another European meeting of molecular electronics.

At the same time, it would be a great honor us to organize this meeting in Hungary again, co-operating with one of the greatest scientific society in our country, the Hungarian Chemical Society, member of 7 international organizations, which could warrant its realization at the required, even top level.

To establish a sound financial basis for the Society, it was unavoidable to introduce the membership fee. At the same time, as it has been foreseen, it has led to a significant decrease of the 'good/payed' members and introduced difficult problems coming from the real international character of the Society and the economical differences in different regions/countries of the world. The regional Point of Contacts (POC) system has proved very useful but it is not yet appropriately organized everywhere to keep in hand the financial and membership problems. Surely, if our activities, the services provided by the Society (more frequent regular appearance of a more interesting Newsletter, establishment of own journals of the Society such as a fast publishing MEBC Letters, creating awards, initiating international research projects, organizing various meetings and schools, providing more and more informations and computational helps through the networks, etc.,) would be increased, then more and more members would be ready to pay the fee with pleasure. Also, the members would greatly appreciate the Presidents' activity in searching for and finding financial supports for the Society.

The last two presidents have concentrated mainly to the organization of the Society's regular meetings, the MEBC Symposia, attracting always a great interest. We have had seminal meetings both in Gaithersburg, Goa and Okinawa, as we shall surely have in Nanjing again just when this issue will appear. This is seen from the Past President's Address, the Okinawa review, as well as from the two Goa reports of this issue - one with the eyes of the organizer and the other with those of a guest. A look at the program of Nanjing here will convince the reader on a further significant progress.

At the same time, we have to renew many of our earlier trials which have been faded away, such as to establish a peer reviewed Society's own journal "MEBC Letters" published by a professional publisher (a great documentation is available about our negotiations with a number of excellent publishers), to arrange the regularized publication of the Proceedings of MEBC Symposia possibly on the same foot, to arrange the inclusion of the Newsletter of MEBC into MEBC Letters or regularize it in some other way, and to establish MEBC Prices (suggestion for an Award Committee has earlier been taken on the ground of volunteers replying a questionnary—definite sums are saved in the count of the Society for such awards!). (Note that Feynman Award—among others—has been planned but it cannot be longer realized by our Society, because it is already given by the Foresight Institute.)

One of the most serious problem is the non-satisfactory (sometimes zero) activity of the Committees. Some control seems to be desirable. Two years delay in elections may lead to the complete collaps of a society... so, right now, a prompt starting of the already actual next nomination and voting is badly proposed—distribution of the Ballots would be desirable just at the Nanjing Symposium in this November. Most importantly, we suggest the election of essentially younger officers than earlier.

The MEBC field is developing by leaps and bounds. We are finding papers, introductions, summaries, opening and closing speaches, etc., full with ideas which are having many common points with ours. More extended cooperation is highly desirable with people interested in molecular electronics who never heard about the existence of ISMEBC before.

Also, we have to learn much from other older and highly effective organizations. Perhaps, a Ph.D student in research on history and development of international societies would be the best to study and suggest the most promising ways towards better effectivity.

We would like to express here our warmest thanks for Ann Tate, Executive Editor and Treasurer, on the occasion of her withdrawal, for her enthusiastic and outstanding activity both in organization and editing, as it was detailed in another page of this issue by Michael Conrad and one of us.

Our sincere thanks are due also to George L. Hamlin who has offered valuable help in publishing several Newsletters. As he said, "The value of the Newsletter depends on the high quality of its reporters like yourself."

Doesn't something similar apply to societies themselves?

Géza Biczó and Péter Rajczy