

International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

IUTAM

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Sent by e-mail: davide.bigoni@unitn.it

Professor Davide Bigoni
Universita' di Trento, Italy

Dear Professor Bigoni,

On behalf of the Congress Committee of IUTAM, I have the pleasure of inviting you to co-chair the Thematic Session entitled

SM13. Stability and instability of Materials and Structures

at the 26th International Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, ICTAM2024, to be held in Daegu, Korea, August 25-30, 2024 (<http://www.ictam2024.org>).

Each Thematic Session will have two co-chairs. A parallel invitation to a co-chair is also being sent. As soon as I have confirmation of the name of your co-chair I will let you know.

I very much hope that you will accept this invitation, the duties of which are detailed below. Well-informed, active, dynamic co-chairs of Thematic Sessions have proven vital to the breadth and quality of papers received, and thereby to the success of an IUTAM congress.

Your joint responsibilities as co-chairs of a Thematic Session are as follows:

1. To *contact researchers* in the field of the Thematic Session and encourage them to submit papers. At the Congress, your Thematic Session may consist of one or more Lecture

Sessions and segments of Short Talk and Poster Sessions, depending on the number of accepted papers. A one-hour Lecture Session consists of three 20-minute talks (15 minutes and 5 minutes for questions and change over).

2. To *rank all papers* submitted to the Thematic Session, both from the authors you have contacted and from others who submit on their own accord and list the Thematic Session as the most appropriate for their paper. Your ranking will be provided to the International Papers Committee (IPC), which meets in March 2024, and has the final word on selection of papers for the Congress. Along with your rankings the IPC will also receive the rankings of the national pre-selection committees for those countries that use such committees. Each IPC member is charged with reading and assessing the extended abstracts of the papers submitted to the congress.

3. Following the IPC meeting, we ask your advice and co-operation with the local organizers in *arranging the accepted papers into suitable sessions*. We hope you will make every effort to attend the congress and chair one of the sessions of the Thematic Session yourself.

4. In each Thematic Session the co-chairs are authorized to invite up to four lecturers for 20-minute slots without interference from the IPC. These four speakers should not be from the same institutions as the co-chairs. They are expected to supply abstracts like everyone else but the IPC cannot overrule the co-chairs on these four speakers as they may otherwise do in balancing the overall program.

Items 1 and 4 are a bit different in the IUTAM setting from the common invitation to “organize a session” and I should like to make the following comments regarding them:

- We request you to send out letters soliciting contributions in co-operation with your co-chair. Many well-known authors receive multiple solicitations from different Thematic Session chairs to contribute. We ask that each author only submit one paper for consideration to keep the assessment task manageable, and only one paper per presenting author will appear on the final program. The “yield” from your solicitation letters can therefore be difficult to predict.
- An example letter of solicitation is attached. Please feel free to edit it, in order to include, e.g., information regarding possible sub-topics that you wish to be accorded special emphasis and where contributed papers would be particularly welcome. However, in general, i.e., apart from the four authorized invitations mentioned, please *do not* give the impression that solicited contributions will necessarily be accepted by the IPC for the final program. Indicating that a paper is “invited for presentation” may lead to embarrassments later on in the process. Regarding the four papers that you are authorized to invite, you may wish to use these invitations “up front” or just to designate them later as you perform your ranking of all papers submitted.
- The President of the Congress, Professor Heuy Dong Kim and its Secretary-General, Professor Simon Song, will be pleased to add names that you suggest to the mailing list

for the First Announcement of the Congress. Please send Professor Kim (kimhd@anu.ac.kr) a list of the people you have encouraged to contribute papers to your Thematic Session as soon as you have done so. The congress website, which you may wish to include in your approach to potential authors, is www.ictam2024.org

- Your rankings will be submitted via a spreadsheet when the time comes. For the benefit of the IPC please indicate the four papers you wish to have invited directly on this spreadsheet, and include a brief remark explaining why you have chosen these four contributions.

I should perhaps add that IUTAM and the Congress have only very limited funds for the support of participants, and that these funds are primarily targeted to assist young researchers (graduate students and postdocs) who might otherwise not be able to attend. It is hoped that most established participants, including those invited to act as Thematic Session co-chairs, will have little difficulty in obtaining the necessary support to attend through their national committees or other national sources.

I look forward to your reply, and would be most grateful if you could send it to me by e-mail as soon as possible. I have written to your co-chair in similar terms. If you have any queries, I shall of course attempt to provide clarification.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Mittal
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