

# **SIM XI General Assembly**

## ***SIM XI Asamblea General***



Port of Spain, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
*Port of Spain, Octubre 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

## **Draft minutes**

### **AGENDA**

**First Day: Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

- ITEM 1. Accreditation Of Delegates
- ITEM 2. Verification Of Quorum (Installation Of General Assembly)
- ITEM 3. Approval of the Agenda.
- ITEM 4. Welcome from Director of TTBS, Mr. Prem Nandal
- ITEM 5. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous General Assembly
- ITEM 6. Ratification of Council Resolutions
- ITEM 7. Report from SIM President, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues
- ITEM 8. Report from Executive Secretary, Oscar Harasic
- ITEM 9. Report from Technical Permanent Advisor and Report on the Status of SIM/OAS Project for 2005, Steve Carpenter
- ITEM 10. Report from Technical Committee and SIM Representative to the JCRB, Luis Mussio
- ITEM 11. Report from Professional Development Committee, Yoshito Mitani
- ITEM 12. Report from SIM Representative to NCSLi, João Jornada
- ITEM 13. Presentation of Other Organisations attending the General Assembly
  - BIPM
  - EUROMET
  - APMP/NEC
  - COOMET
  - NCSLi
  - Workplace Training
  - NAVSEA
  - COPANT
- ITEM 14: Sub-Regional Meetings

**Second Day: Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

ITEM 15. Reinstallation of the General Assembly

ITEM 16. Report of SIM-PTB Project on Chemical Metrology

ITEM 17. Quality System Task Force Activities Report

ITEM 18: Presentation of Sub-Regional Reports (including the appointment of representative for the next term 2006-2007):

ANDIMET – Jose A. Dajes Castro

CAMET – Carlos Roberto Ochoa

CARIMET – Hermon Edmondson

NORAMET – Jim McLaren

SURAMET – Ever Cabrera

ITEM 19. Next General Assemblies (SURAMET-2006, NORAMET-2007)

ITEM 20. Other Business

ITEM 21. Closing Session

**Meeting:****1. Accreditation of Delegates**

The President Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues welcomed the members present at the XI General Assembly. Before starting discussions, she requested one minute of silence for the victims of recent disasters especially those in Member States of SIM.

**2. Verification of Quorum**

As 28 out of 34 members were present, quorum was established (the list of participants is in annex 1).

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed that PTB representative, was delayed due to flight problems in Caracas and would not be able to arrive in time to make his presentation and therefore it was postponed to the day after. The agenda was then approved without further comments.

**4. Welcome from the Director of TTBS, Mr. Prem Nandal**

TTBS's Director thanked and welcomed everybody. He initiated his speech emphasizing that this is a special year for TTBS in the area of metrology because they have started implementing the provisions of the Metrology Act which was approved last year, representing a landmark for the country. He said this means they are in a better position to participate in SIM events, especially those in the technical areas. He then said they are planning to take a significant role in the evolving structure of Caribbean Metrology encouraging and facilitating the development of infrastructure and capabilities in areas of key economic importance. In this regard he expressed they were looking forward to participating in areas like chemical metrology, for its importance for areas like agriculture, food, spirits, petrochemical, as much as for the protection of fragile areas, like ecosystems. Mr. Prem Nandal finished his speech wishing success in the discussions to follow and that all participants could enjoy a pleasant stay in Trinidad.

## **5. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous General Assembly**

Under Agenda Item 11, on page 5, the correct expression would be: “training was provided”, instead of “training was provides”.

Concerning Agenda Item 19, on page 5, related to EUROMET presentation, it should have been written “Andrew Wallard from BIPM”, and not “from CIPM”.

Regarding GA Resolution 01/04, on page 11, it must be stated “September” and not “Septiembre”.

After these amendments the Minutes from previous General Assembly were approved.

**Resolution GA01/05:** Approval of the minutes of the X General Assembly held in Margarita Island, Venezuela, November 04<sup>th</sup> and 05<sup>th</sup> 2004.

## **6. Ratification of Council Resolutions**

Luis Mussio presented the resolutions taken by the Council in 2005 and briefly explained each of them.

Some comments have been made to the resolutions. Concerning CR04/05: Hermon Edmondson, from Jamaica, asked if you must be a SIM member to be part of the QSTF. Luis Mussio explained that you must be a member of SIM and a CIPM signatory to participate in QSTF.

Andrew Wallard made some remarks concerning the decisions taken in the scope of the organization. He mentioned that when decisions are made, it is important to have someone from the organization to check if that decision has implications over the organization activities. Luis Mussio, as the JCRB representative, will then be responsible for analyzing the resolutions and commenting to other SIM Members.

With regards to CR05/05, Hector Nava Jaimes, from Mexico, stressed the importance of this resolution, for countries to be aware of the importance of sending the support letter to OAS Project. Dianne Lalla Rodrigues then reminded the participants that the amount of funding depends, at least partly, on the support letters. She said it is understood that there are bureaucratic steps involved in the process of sending letters, but it is extremely necessary to send a message to OAS and NIST (Steve Carpenter), to inform them when countries send their letters to their OAS missions.

After these brief comments, Council Resolutions were ratified with no amendments.

**Resolution GA02/05:** The General Assembly ratified all Council Resolutions of the year 2005 with no amendments.

## **7. Report from SIM President, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues**

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed that the report had been circulated to all SIM Members. The report shall be publicized on SIM website as there was no time to include it in the workbook.

She initiated her speech expressing how thankful she was for the support received during her first year in SIM presidency. She specially thanked Council Members for their support. A special thanks was devoted to Mr. Theodore Reddock, from Trinidad and Tobago, and his team for their support concerning the organization of the General Assembly and related events.

She first talked about the recent changes in the OAS Project, which will now cover 17 months, instead of 12, having reduced the funds available, what shows the necessity of prioritizing activities.

She then made some remarks about the international participation of SIM, informing that in those international events where was not possible to have the participation of a SIM representative, a written report was sent.

She also stressed some activities conducted under the PTB-SIM Chemical Metrology Project, which has been quite successful so far.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues made some comments about the Online training, which is being provided by a firm hired by SIM – WP Training. Paul Hanssen, representative of WP Training will make a presentation about this project on the second day of discussions of the General Assembly. She also mentioned that there is a need for an evaluation of this on line training, to assess whether the training will be maintained or not.

Jose Dajes, from Peru, recalling Resolution GA04/04, about inviting IAAC and ILAC, asked if they had been invited. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed the participants that they had been invited and enjoyed the opportunity to welcome them.

Ramiro Santizo, from Guatemala, informed all participants that Guatemala opened a new laboratory last September. This new metrology infrastructure, which is one of the most modern in the region, is available to all CAMET members. Hector Nava Jaimes, from Mexico, gave them a present to commemorate. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues congratulated Guatemala.

## **8. Report from Executive Secretary, Oscar Harasic**

Oscar Harasic presented the main activities conducted by the Executive Secretary during the year of 2005. The report was included in the GA workbook and will be publicized on SIM web page.

He briefly commented the activities of the Executive Secretariat (that consist mainly of logistical support in three categories: Administrative, Technical and the Dissemination of Information to SIM members) conducted since last General Assembly, held in Venezuela, in October 2004.

Additionally, he said he was pleased to inform the General Assembly that the PTB/OAS agreement had been signed by the German Ambassador to the United States Mr. Wolfgang Ischinger and the then acting Secretary General of the OAS Ambassador Luigi Einaudi in January 2005 in Washington, D.C.

He also informed that the Executive Secretariat is collaborating with the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality to obtain funds for the proposal “Establishing the Framework for a Harmonized and Traceable Legal Metrology Infrastructure in the Caribbean Region,” as a result of one the various initiatives of the First Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology, held in Lima, Peru in November 2004.

## **9. Report from Technical Permanent Advisor and Report on the Status of SIM/OAS Project for 2005, Steve Carpenter**

Steve Carpenter made a presentation about the Budget to 2005 and the new Project submitted to the OAS, for the period 2005-2008. His reports were included

in the General Assembly Workbook. He started his presentation explaining that the SIM Project 2001-2004, submitted to OAS, had come to an end. A new project was submitted for the period 2005-2008, under the title “Implementation of Metrology Infrastructures of the Americas to support Free Trade and improve Quality of Life”. He explained there has been a change in the process of liberation of funds. Even though the project had been approved in January, the funds for the first period have only been allocated in July, having been liberated for the period July/05-December/06 – seventeen months, instead of the usual period of twelve months. He stated that one good point was that the amount approved for the project has been increased from US\$ 250,000.00 to US\$ 300,000.00.

He then stressed the importance of support letters to the project. They shall be sent to Oscar Harasic and Steve Carpenter.

Steve Carpenter also informed the General Assembly that the same institutions continue managing the funds – LATU, NIST and CENAM.

Hernando Florez, from Panama, asked if the change in the disbursement – now for seventeen months – would be compensated afterwards. Steve Carpenter then explained that there will be no compensation, and it works as if we had lost six months in the project.

Steve Carpenter then made some remarks about the evaluation process of Project 2001-2004. As he had informed to Council Members during the last meeting of the Council, he received an e-mail from OAS concerning the second phase of last project 2001-2004’s evaluation. He is supposed to suggest to OAS the names of those who will provide information for this second phase. OAS wants to have a better idea of the benefits provided by the project and it would be better to identify people from other groups besides those who always participate in the evaluations, like Canada, Brazil, US, Mexico, Uruguay. He would like to identify people who participated in Chemical Metrology activities, not only NMIs representatives, but also other people from communities like universities, other institutes, etc. The idea is to foster the participation of small developing countries in the evaluation.

He then showed a slide containing information about the areas chosen for the evaluation. A copy will be provided for each party who will be requested to participate in the evaluation.

Haygas Kalustián, from Venezuela, suggested to include in the project activities more related to the integration of the hemisphere as the allegation of free trade might not be enough to guarantee the support of all countries, as for example in the case of Venezuela, who does not feel so comfortable about the project and its allegation of free trade.

Hector Nava Jaimes, from Mexico, supports this suggestion, especially because in his point of view ALCA’s negotiations have become blurry. He then added that we should stress activities directed at strengthening metrology infrastructure of SIM members. Steve Carpenter then reminded that the project does not exclusively mention free trade, but also health care, quality of life, environment, among others.

## **10. Report from Technical Committee and SIM Representative to the JCRB, Luis Mussio**

Luis Mussio presented both reports together as there is strong relationship between them. The report will be publicized on SIM web page. He first showed that

there have been some changes in TC working groups' chairs. Then he talked about some points concerning JCRB meetings.

Luis Mussio informed that there have been no Working Groups meetings due to the lack of funds. He also mentioned that SIM directory has been updated but there are still some countries that haven't provided the requested information since 2002.

Jose Dajes, enjoyed the opportunity to mention some intercomparison that have been conducted by ANDIMET and some European countries.

Alison Plummer, from St. Lucia, asked if there has been any initiative to foster the utilization of CIPM MRA database. Andrew Wallard, from BIPM, answered that in fact there is a strong suggestion for countries to utilize CIPM MRA database, aiming at the reduction of the establishment of technical barriers to trade. He also said that soon they will be calling attention for the CIPM MRA and ILAC's agreement. He added that it is not the intention that the CIPM MRA becomes a technical barrier to trade.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then asked Andrew Wallard about how has been the relation between BIPM and the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (CTBT). He responded that he has made some presentations to the committee and they have been talking in order to foster a collaborative partnership between both organisms.

Haygas Kalustian then asked Luis Mussio about the working groups and why haven't they been meeting with frequency. Luis Mussio explained that one huge problem concerns the communication gap, as most people do not even answer e-mails.

### **11. Report from Professional Development Committee, Yoshito Mitani**

Yoshito Mitani initiated his presentation informing the General Assembly that most part of his report concerned activities of the year 2004, due to the lack of funds which did not allow for the realization of many activities that had been previewed. For the same reason there has been no PDC meeting during this period, except for the TC/PDC meeting, held in Barbados, in February. His report will be publicized on SIM web page.

One activity that deserved being stressed was the on line training hired by SIM, which is being supplied by WP Training. The online courses are being offered for the following areas: introductory in English and Spanish, mass, electricity, flow, temperature and Dimension.

The following seminars are scheduled for November this year: a seminar about – acoustic and vibration, to be held in Colombia; a seminar about time and frequency, to be held in Paraguay; a seminar on legal metrology in conjunction with natural gas metrology, to be held in Brazil.

He also presented some possible dates and subjects for the preparation of seminars for 2006: In Guatemala; a seminar about thermometry in February, in St. Lucia; a seminar together with a meeting of the Quality System Working Group (QSWG) around March, in Ecuador; a photometry seminar in July, and in Brazil, a legal metrology course in conjunction with General Assembly, in September.

He finished his report emphasizing the priority areas within SIM's scope: the need for cooperation with other organisms, as the example of Andimet intercomparisons with EU and CENAM, for example.

## **12. Report from SIM Representative to NCSLI, João Jornada**

The report was circulated to participants and will be publicized on website.

Primarily, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed the General Assembly that during last council meeting, held on October 09<sup>th</sup>, it was decided that Humberto Brandi will now be the SIM representative to NCSLI, replacing João Jornada who has not been being able to attend NCSLI meetings.

Andrew Wallard made a small correction on the report – he asked to change where it mentions Mr. Mood should mention Mr. Moody, just to correct.

Alison Plummer, from St. Lucia, made some remarks about the challenge for CARIMET members to maintain membership at NCSLI. She wanted to know if there are any initiatives to make their condition better. As there were no representatives from NCSLI, the issue shall be brought up in another occasion.

## **13. Presentation of other organizations attending the General Assembly**

### **BIPM**

Andrew Wallard's presentation will be publicized on SIM webpage. He highlighted some of the main features of: BIPM's year; the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement and TBTs; BIPM/ILAC Working Party activity; the first meeting of Regional Metrology and Accreditation bodies; the CIPM/ILAC statement on roles and responsibilities; and what's happening on the SI.

### **EUROMET**

Gordon Clark made the EUROMET's presentation, which shall be publicized on SIM web page.

Yoshito Mitani asked about the prioritization process. Gordon Clark informed that so far they haven't got one and are still working to find the best way to do that.

### **APMP/NEC**

Ichiro Fujima made a brief presentation about the organization structure and its main activities. He showed what the technical committees are and the important events that occurred in 2005.

Angela Samuel then continued APMP presentation, speaking more specifically about the Developing Economies Committee (DEC), showing some proposals for cooperation between APMP and SIM. She stressed the similarities between the technological situations of developing countries of the two organisms, facing limiting resources, what shows a niche for collaboration between SIM and APMP, especially considering experience sharing, awareness raising, facilitation on participation in CIPM-MRA, chemical metrology activities, inter-comparisons, training, information sharing, development of guidance material/guidelines, cooperation with other regional bodies, among others.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then said that Angela's proposal had already been presented to the Council the day before and as this is an in depth proposal, should be looked into in particular details. The Council should analyze it and think of specific ways to conduct the conjunction work.

**COOMET**

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed the General Assembly that even though their representative could not be present, they had sent their report in advance, which had been included in the workbook.

**NCSLI**

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues apologized in the name of their representative, Steve Stahley, who could not be present at the General Assembly this time, and she informed about the dates for NCSLI International Board of Directors Meeting for 2006: January 15<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup>, in San Antonio, TX; April 23<sup>rd</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>, at NCSLI Business Office; August 06<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, in Nashville; October 22<sup>nd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup>, in Queretaro, Mexico.

**Workplace Training**

Paul Hanssen made a presentation about the situation of the on line training course. He prepared a SIM Executive summary, which showed the countries that used the training services the most as El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, among others. So far more than 900 people have been trained. Paul Hanssen also gave some ideas of how much would it cost for SIM in case such courses had been hired in a regular way, including travel expenses, etc. Under this calculation he estimated that it would have spent around US\$ 2,750.00 per person. He also presented other courses that are available in case there is interest from SIM members.

After his presentation, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues said she understood there would be a lot of inquiries and they should be made directly to Paul Hanssen or to Yoshito Mitani.

**NAVSEA**

Laron Scott made the presentation about the International Metrology Capability Advancement Partnership (IMCAP) program. A written version of the presentation was circulated to all participants. It was discussed that it is not possible to have direct collaboration between SIM and Navsea, so it is up to each individual country to negotiate with them. Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then said that concerning that the interested countries should make their inquiries directly at them.

**14. Sub-Regional Meetings**

After the presentations of other organizations attending the General Assembly had been made, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues adjourned the meeting for the following day, informing the participants that the five sub-regions of SIM would have their meetings, as part of the XI General Assembly. After their meetings, each coordinator would make a brief report to the General Assembly, under agenda item 18.

**Second Day: Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005****15. Reinstallation of the General Assembly**

Quorum was verified, so the General Assembly was reinstalled.

**COPANT**



Jose Polo Faria presented the main features of COPANT, starting from a historical perspective and emphasizing some of the main aspects of its organizational structure. He also presented the cooperation agreement that COPANT has with other standardization organizations, such as ISO and IEC and finished presenting its activities directed at developing countries. Their presentation will be publicized on SIM web page.

### **16. Report of SIM-PTB Project on Chemical Metrology**

Steve Carpenter made a presentation on behalf of Willie May. A report was circulated among participants and the presentation will be publicized on SIM web page.

Steve Carpenter initiated the presentation by showing the main activities carried out through the years 2003-2006, including the awareness seminars offered, with the number of attendees per sub-region. He also talked briefly about the comparison studies undertaken under the projects, as much as the workshops organized to discuss comparison results, like those held in Costa Rica, Venezuela, among others.

Concerning future activities, he informed the intention is to continue with the same cooperative program between OAS/SIM and German Government, with technical coordination by NIST, PTB, NRC and CENAM on the same format.

He also showed a list of proposed SIM Chemical Metrology Comparison Studies for 2006, as well as future sub regional awareness seminars for the year (probably in Uruguay, Brazil and El Salvador).

Some of the impacts of the program have been estimated, especially in what regards the improvement in the participation of SIM members in comparison studies, is CCQM meetings and in the submission of CMCs.

Finally, Steve showed some of the points of discussion for the Working Group Business meeting scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>, as part of the activities of the SIM Week in Trinidad.

After his presentation Angela Samuel, from APMP, asked if the documents of awareness seminar were available. Steve Carpenter said he will check with Willie May when he arrives and will get back to her.

### **17. Quality System Task Force Activities Report**

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed the agenda for the meeting of October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and that as William Anderson had not arrived yet, Ruben Lazos and Annamaria Narizano would make a brief presentation about the activities of SIM QSTF on his behalf. They requested then that any inquiries should be made to William Anderson after his arrival. The presentation will be publicized on SIM web page.

They first presented the meetings that were held since last General Assembly in Margarita Island and the information presented by participant countries in each meeting.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues thanked all organizations present at the General Assembly as it would now be switched to the closing session of the meeting, in which only SIM members would be discussing some internal issues.

Each representative of other organizations thanked for the opportunity of participating in the General Assembly and wished all the best for SIM.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues then gave the floor to the past president, Felipe Urresta, who said a few words about his satisfactory in working within SIM for such a long time.

### **18. Presentation of Sub-regional Reports**

**ANDIMET:** Jose Dajes from Peru, made the presentation of ANDIMET activities for the period of November 2004 to September 2005. The report is included in the workbook and will be publicized on SIM web page. In his report, Jose Dajes emphasized the coordination meetings held at the sub-region, the seminars and courses offered during the year, the intercomparisons carried through the period and finally some of the most important activities that occurred in each of the five countries of the sub-region. He then informed that the new coordinator for the sub-region for the period 2005-2007 is Juan Carlos Castillo, from IBMETRO, Bolivia. TC and PDC representative is Haygas Kalustian and Jose Dajes is alternative.

**CAMET:** Miguel Tevez, from El Salvador, made the presentation of CAMET activities during 2004-2005 on behalf of CAMET Coordinator, Carlos Roberto Ochoa, who could not participate in the General Assembly. He mentioned some of the main activities conducted in the region as for example: the comparison in the area of temperature among CAMET countries, the adoption of a Central American regulation for the verification of net content in prepackaged products, the participation in SIM-PTB Chemical Project, the inauguration of the ‘Centro Nacional de Metrologia’ – CENAME in Guatemala, on September 30<sup>th</sup>; peer evaluation of the system of laboratories in the areas of electric energy, time and frequency and mass; management of resources of the Project CHINA/CTCAP for the supply of metrological infrastructure of the member countries of the region. He then informed the new representatives of the sub-region for the period 2005-2007 as being: Gustavo Montiel, from Lanamet, Nicaragua, the new coordinator of the sub-region, Beatriz Paniagua, from Lacomet, Costa Rica, the new representative to Technical Committee and as the new Professional Development Committee representative, Hernando Florez, Cenamep, Panama.

There has been a proposal to change Dominican Republic membership from CARIMET to CAMET, and in exchange, Belize from CAMET to CARIMET, due to language barriers. Alison Plummer, the representative of St. Lucia, commented that we should not be imprisoned to language barriers. Julio Santana, from Dominican Republic, agreed with the position of St. Lucia representative but he said he would be more comfortable in being part of a sub-region with which they have signed a free trade agreement, as it happened to Dominican Republic and Central America, through the CAFTA.

Hermon Edmondson from Jamaica then reminded that there is already a resolution about the matter – that Dominican Republic would be part of CARIMET but could participate in CAMET activities whenever there is an interest.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues remarked that the subject should be discussed between the two regions.

Felipe Urresta asked the representative of Panama, Hernando Florez about a project that had been presented at the last General Assembly, wishing for some

feedback about the matter. Hernando Florez explained that the project continues but they have been having some difficulty with its conduction.

**CARIMET:** Hermon Edmondson, from Jamaica, made a presentation that shall be publicized on SIM web page. He presented the regional environment of the sub-region, stressing the mayor successes for the region as follows: CARICOM is now an associate member of CGPM and will shortly sign the CIPM MRA; the development of a legal metrology project; the development of an MSTQ Project for improving the quality infrastructure in CARICOM countries. Two other important issues: presidency is now in CARIMET as well as the hosting of the XI General Assembly, now in Trinidad and Tobago.

There have been four meetings of the executive and CROSQ what represents an important strategic plan for the region. He informed that more information can be obtained through the web page [www.crosq.org](http://www.crosq.org).

Hermon Edmondson also showed the training activities in which CARIMET countries participated, held either in national level or in SIM level.

He also presented briefly the details of the participation of Jamaica in the Chemical Project as much as the main challenges related to the slow pace of development in a few countries of the sub region.

Hermon Edmondson finished his presentation expressing his gratitude for the period in which he has worked within SIM, as he will no longer be working at BSJ and it is his 'good-bye' to all SIM partners.

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues thanked him for his work in the name of the success of SIM and the sub-region.

The new coordinator to CARIMET from now on will be Theodore Reddock, from TTBS, Trinidad and Tobago.

**NORAMET:** Jim McLaren briefly presented the main activities conducted in the sub-region, as most part of it had been previously mentioned by Steve Carpenter, while he presented the chemical project. Jim McLaren informed about a new time and frequency network developed by NIST, NRC and CENAM. The working group of this area is interested in having more details on the operation of this network to evaluate the possibility of spreading the participation of other NMIs. He also informed that the interested NMI or its designated will have to be a CIPM signatory and will have to have concluded its quality system review in order to participate. As Steve Carpenter talked during the Council Meeting the day before about the possibility of getting more funds from US mission to OAS, this might be one of the activities to be included in the selected project. In case the new funds from US are approved it will be easier to have the project extended.

Yoshito Mitani then reminded the importance of the next meeting of the working group on time and frequency, followed by a seminar, to be held in Paraguay. It is important to know, in advance, who the representatives will be, in order to distribute funds accordingly.

**SURAMET:** Ever Cabrera made some brief remarks on 2004-2005 SURAMET activities, as: activities with the participation of SURAMET instructors, answers to activities related to chemical metrology, the situation of the five NMIs members of the sub-region, and finally the concrete activities predicted to the period oct/2005

to sept/2006. Ever Cabrera will remain as the coordinator of the sub-region, for the period 2005-2007.

### **19. Next General Assemblies (SURAMET-2006, NORAMET-2007)**

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues informed the General Assembly that due to some internal problems, Canada will no longer be able to host the next GA, having Brazil offered to host it in Rio de Janeiro, in conjunction with IMEKO-2006, a conference that will be a good opportunity for people to participate in.

Humberto Brandi said it will be a pleasure for Brazil to host the General Assembly 2006, and said a few word about the IMEKO Conference, inviting all SIM Members to come to Rio de Janeiro next year.

Jim McLaren then confirmed their interest in hosting the General Assembly 2007 in Canada.

**Resolution GA03/05:** The 2006 GA Meeting will be hosted by Brazil. The dates will be determined together with the Executive Secretary.

**Resolution GA04/05:** The 2007 GA Meeting will be hosted by Canada. The dates will be defined in the 2006 GA Meeting.

### **20. Other Business**

Steve Carpenter talked a little bit more about the funds available at US mission to OAS. He said there are some possible areas to invest using the available funds: time and frequency, ozone, and a third theme to be chosen by SIM. Concerning this third theme, he will finish discussions with the council and will prepare a project to the US mission requesting the funding and as soon as he gets a response he will inform all SIM members.

Humberto Brandi then mentioned that the SIM-PTB Project for Chemistry has been a huge success and it could be used as an example.

### **21. Closing Session**

Before closing, Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues expressed her thanks to TTBS for the organization of the events and for the delegates who participated and cooperated for the happening of the events.

She also thanked all SIM members for the last year of support, expressing how pleased she was for having the opportunity to participate in such a solid organization as SIM.

## **General Assembly Resolutions**

**Resolution GA01/05:** Approval of the minutes of the X General Assembly held in Margarita Island, Venezuela, November 04<sup>th</sup> and 05<sup>th</sup> 2004.

**Resolution GA02/05:** The General Assembly ratified all Council Resolutions of the years 2004/2005 with no amendments.

**Resolution GA03/05:** The 2006 GA Meeting will be hosted by Brazil. The dates will be determined together with the Executive Secretary.

**Resolution GA04/05:** The 2007 GA Meeting will be hosted by Canada. The dates will be defined in the 2006 GA Meeting.