

# in the final analysis

*“The Master said, ‘The gentleman understands what is right, whereas the petty man understands profit.’”*

—Confucius

As professional societies go, my friends at the Science and Engineering American Association for the Partially Expert are a fairly underachieving bunch. Nice people but generally clueless if truth be told. Aside from their elegant name and acronym, SEAAPE is a wonderful association against which to benchmark for purposes of determining what *not* to do. For example, while SEAAPE does not believe in strategic planning, their leadership has declared the goal of resisting all international activities so as to not accelerate the introduction of new ideas or diversity into the organization. “Also, we’re thinking that this whole globalization fad will blow over pretty soon, so where’s the money in that?” their latest executive director commented recently. While their vision is indisputably clear, it is, um, dumb.\*

Personally, I much prefer a vision that is both clear *and* wise. In last month’s column, I reported that TMS takes strategic planning very seriously, and a goal of the just-adopted 2018 TMS Strategic Plan focuses on the internationalization of the society. One could play devil’s advocate and ask: “Why go international?” The answer was inescapable: “TMS is already international. The real question should be, ‘Will we just drift with the flow or will we try to set and navigate a course?’” Our strategic plan’s emphasis on informed internationalization answers that question clearly, decisively, and wisely: TMS is based in the United States, but the community we serve is worldwide. The right thing to do is to develop ways to serve that community even more effectively.

Tactics that engage this community are occurring on small and large scales. For example, this year we are launching the internationally minded *Journal of Sustainable Metallurgy* (JSM—a new acronym in our inventory!). It has three people co-serving as editors in chief: Diran Apelian (United States), Bart Blanpain (Belgium), and Shin-ya Kitamura (Japan)—that’s a true global impact factor. On the events side, just last month, the society hosted the TMS Middle East-Mediterranean Materials Congress on Energy and Infrastructure Systems in Qatar, which came two months after TMS held the renowned Industrial Aluminum Electrolysis short course in the United Arab Emirates. This coming August, TMS will collaborate with the Chinese Society for Metals (CSM) to host the 1st International Conference on Computational Designs and Simulations of Materials in Shenyang, China. Later this year, look for announcements about TMS’s hosting the Pan American Materials Congress in 2016 and CSM-TMS Energy Materials 2016.

The first CSM-TMS Energy Materials event was hosted by CSM in Xi’an, China, during November 2014. The lead program organizers were Xingbo Liu of West Virginia University representing TMS and Zhengdong Liu of China’s Central Iron and Steel Research Institute representing CSM. TMS President Hani Henein and I attended and saw what a wonderful job the organizers did and experienced firsthand how gracious CSM was as host. It was time well spent and our network was greatly expanded. TMS leadership looks forward to hosting the second installment in the United States and then rotating back to China.

CSM and TMS are now collaborating on three unique and recurrent meetings as well as selected publications. Like the boundless economic engine that China is, I feel quite certain that CSM and TMS have not maxed out our joint opportunities. Just look at the numbers—three percent of TMS professional members hail from China, about six percent of our annual meeting attendees travel from China to participate, more than ten percent of our annual meeting papers come from China, . . .

. . . and, after the United States, China is the country that downloads the most papers from TMS journals: more than 30,000 per year from *JOM* alone—even In the Final Analysis, although I’m not so sure that is a good thing for international relations!

\* The described society and circumstance is a work of pure fiction created by the author’s wisenheimer imagination. Any inferred resemblance to an actual professional society or executive director—living, dead, or otherwise—is strictly accidental, inadvertent, unintended, and absolutely an innocent whoopsie on the author’s part should such a society or executive director exist capable and desirous of declaring such a resemblance.

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