



Igor Emri  
SEM President  
1999-2000

The March/April issue of the ET is distributed to all participants of the SEM IX International Congress and Exposition in June. It is therefore appropriate to start this message with a warm welcome to all participants of the 2000 International Congress. At the time I am writing this address, we already have a preliminary program and I can tell that this will be a very successful Congress. I wish to extend a special welcome to those who are attending the SEM meeting for the first time. I trust you will find this meeting fruitful for your work and I am looking forward to seeing you at other SEM gatherings in the future.

At this Congress I will finish my term as SEM President, so I would like to provide you with a synopsis of my term as your president. Presidents serve only a one-year term, which is long enough to initiate an idea, however, much too short to bring it to life. As a result, anything that is achieved within SEM, is spread over the terms of several presidents. This system assures smooth transitions and stability of our society. As a result, SEM is a stable society, and I trust it will remain this way for a long time to come.

One of the changes which has emerged over a number of presidents' terms, is the organization and structure of the SEM annual conferences. They are now organized in thematic tracks and mini topical symposia. This organizational scheme highlights key scientific and technological problems where experimental mechanics plays an important role. At the same time, this structure provides the opportunity for any and all SEM members to organize a session or symposia focusing on a particular problem of their interest, or interest of their professional circle.

Experimental mechanics is essentially an interdisciplinary field; SEM is therefore approaching other societies to initiate collaboration in joint conferences and workshops. I have recently appointed *liaison officers* to sister societies to promote such cooperation.

In my opinion, another important move is our initiation of discussion on waiving conference registration fees for SEM student members. With this step, SEM will open doors for young people, who are the future of every society.

In my January/February ET message I gave a brief report on the informal meeting between the The Asian Committee on Experimental Mechanics, The European Society of Experimental Mechanics and The Society for Experimental Mechanics. With this meeting SEM started collaborative discussions to find a form of worldwide unification of experimental mechanics and related fields. The SEM Executive Board, and many individuals, support this initiative. My main goal, for the remaining period of time as SEM President, will be to bring this goal to realization.

It has been, and still is, an honor to serve the Society as President. I will always do my best to contribute to the rich heritage of SEM. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your personal contributions to the technical excellence and vitality of our Society this year. Please be active and help to make our Friendly Society even stronger in the time to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Igor Emri'.

Igor Emri, SEM President