

Minutes of the EB meeting 2017-03 on 12 May 2017

Time/place of the meeting: Friday, 12 May 2017, 10:15, SCNAT (room Jungfrau), Laupenstrasse 7, Bern

Present: Günther Dissertori (GD), Tatsuya Nakada (TN, Chair), Adrian Signer (AS), Marc Türlér (MT Admin.), Michele Weber (MW)

Guest: Angela Benelli (AB) as incoming CHIPP Administrator

TN welcomes AB as guest and suggests that everybody quickly presents himself. AB made her PhD work at the University of Liverpool under the supervision of Prof. E. Gabathuler on the CPLEAR experiment, where also Basel, Fribourg, ETHZ and PSI were among the member institutes. She then did post-docs at the University of Basel first on CPLEAR, then on DIRAC with Prof. L. Tauscher before continuing on DIRAC at the University of Zurich with Prof. C. Amsler.

1. Agenda

The agenda is approved.

2. Apologies

None.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2017-02) ([→ document](#))

The minutes of the last meeting are approved after few minor updates and comments.

4. List of Actions

TN goes through the list of action.

Action 2017-02 – 12: GD reports that Felicitas Pauss was not aware of any change of the SNSF policy concerning the school payment of PhD students on an SNSF grant. She will investigate.

Action 2017-02 – 17.1: GD notes that a lot depends on who is in the commission for the CERN fellowship ranking and we need some more information from Xavier Reymond (SERI) before the next selection. The process will be reported to the Board this summer.

5. Next EB meetings

Due to a slight conflict for TN for this meeting, it is decided to have it already at 10:05 instead of 13:15.

- EB 2017-04: Monday, 3 July 2017, 10:05

B. Items for discussion

6. CHIPP administration hand-over

TN explains that due to a change in the HR department at SCNAT it will not be possible for them to employ AB as CHIPP Administrator starting in June, but would be happy to do so starting in January 2018. They do this service apparently also for other affiliated organisations. In the meantime the University of Zurich will employ AB, as it is done now for MT. All the papers have been sent and we wait for their reply. AB will be employed with 10% SERI (for the EPPCN activities) and 50% CHIPP funding. AB already participated to the first meeting of the EPPCN last week (see item 15 below). MT and AB will meet next week for starting the hand-over, for what concerns the CHIPP website, MT would be ready to finish the transition to the SCNAT site before leaving.

→ MT/AB: to meet for knowhow transfer and smooth handover of all activities

7. Strategy Secretary position at CERN

TN discussed the issue of nominating suitable candidates to the open position of CERN Strategy Secretary with Olivier Schneider. He mentions a few possible names. Asked by TN whether he would be interested, GD explains that he cannot resign from his commitments with CMS as co-spokesperson and therefore he is not available for the position.

→ TN: to re-discuss the possible candidates with Olivier Schneider

8. CHIPP support to host ICRC 2021 in Geneva

TN reminds that he sent the request of support to host the conference in Geneva to the Board members and received no answer. As there was no expressed objection, TN suggests CHIPP supporting the University of Geneva in this procedure. Asked by MW what this support implies, he clarifies that it would just be a support of the proposal and possibly some organisational support. He does not expect financial consequences, given the big size of the event that will thus not rely on a few kCHF, which CHIPP could possibly contribute.

→ TN: to write a letter of support to the Univ. of Geneva

9. Agenda of the Board meeting

There is no draft agenda yet for the Board meeting of 21 August, but a few ideas are mentioned. As administrative items, there are the re-elections as EB members of TN and GD, as already mentioned at the last Board meeting. We will also have new honorary members to be recommended to the Plenary session. The workshops of 2018 will certainly be a subject of information and possibly of discussion as well as the Pillar 1 White Paper (WP) preparation. TN mentions that he has finally sent the missing part to Rainer Wallny, who shall now continue the coordination of the WP writing process. Some aspects from the international RTI meeting related to the "Botschaft 2019" shall also be conveyed to the Board. Other obvious information items will be the SCNAT funding requests due by the end of August (the same week) and the CERN fellowship rating issue (see item 4 above).

→ AB: to prepare a draft agenda of the Board meeting for next EB

10. Agenda of the Plenary meeting

The agenda will follow the usual scheme with news from CHIPP, the election of new Honorary Members followed by the reports from the various representatives. The Workshops of 2018 shall obviously be advertised.

→ AB: to prepare the draft agenda and to contact the speakers

11. Workshops of 2018

TN mentions that he got again a comment by Anna Sfyrla and Tobias Golling on the coincidence of the foreseen dates of the workshop and the Easter holidays. TN answered the message explaining the various constraints on the choice of the date. AS and MW see advantages and disadvantages of the chosen date and note that there are not much alternatives given the constraints. Combining work with family holidays, they suggest finding a nice place with a playground for children. MT shows a few possible venues on screen. There are not much discussions, concrete proposals with date availability should be presented to the EB of July or earlier per e-mail. GD mentions the need of a big venue with potentially around 150 people or maybe even more and thus also at least around 120 rooms to be available. On the question whether to have two different venues for April and September, AS suggests to maybe go twice to the same place rather than to change. The programme is also to be prepared before the Board meeting for the SCNAT funding request.

→ MT: to send possible venues to TN before contacting the places

→ AB: to present concrete proposals at the next EB meeting

C. Items for information

12. News from RTI meeting

The main points from the Round Table International (RTI) are the ones discussed separately in items 12 and 13 below. Besides this, TN notes the presence of Thomas Werder, the successor of Tristan Maillard at the head of SNSF Division 2. Astronomers complained to him about the new SNSF rules allowing no more to pay senior staff, who are needed to keep the know-how on long-term instrument development. This is apparently less of an issue for the particle physics community.

13. Input to Swiss RI Roadmap

TN reports that at the RTI meeting there was a discussion about the update of the SERI roadmap. The inputs for new projects to be included shall come from 'Swissuniversities' and the ETH-Rat. TN stated there that the community organised in CHIPP and CHAPS was not directly consulted. This is an issue for projects involving several different institutes and therefore not necessarily the main priority for a given university or the ETH domain, but clearly of national importance. Bruno Moor (SERI) and Hans-Rudolf Ott were quite sympathetic with this argument, but the process is started and one needs to cope with it. Concerning the Long Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF), Xavier Reymond noted that this is already part of the included projects and there is no need to resubmit it again. CHIPP shall however provide its vision on the neutrino programme. It is noted that the involvement of the University of Geneva in the neutrino programme will be decided only after the new professor succeeding to Alain Blondel will be appointed, likely in autumn, and so by early next year we will know the direction taken by Geneva on neutrino physics. Actually, all projects already in the current roadmap will be taken care of. There is no need of further support from universities or the ETHs. This includes the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) already mentioned in the last roadmap. TN sees no way to include LHC updates in the SERI roadmap. MW and GD agree, this shall go via FLARE. Brainstorming on other possible projects, GD wonders if the high-energy muon-beam at PSI could be included. AS would obviously support this, it would make sense, if for instance the Swiss Light Source 2 (SLS2) would also be supported. New experiments like the LISA space gravitational wave detector could be supported as well, but most likely not already this time. It is also found to be too early for asking support for the FCC. TN then mentions that for its 3rd roadmap update, ESFRI will only support projects, if a country is already supporting them. It used to be rather the other way round in the past: ESFRI priorities and support used to be a mean to get national funding for big international projects.

→ TN: to inform the Board on the process at the next meeting

14. CTA funding issue

TN reminds that the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) got direct funding from SERI and therefore did not submit a FLARE request. SERI signed the MoU, but there is now a problem with the location of the headquarters in Bologna (IT). Unlike initially foreseen, the form of the current CTA legal structure (the "gGmbH") is not exempt of taxes under the Italian legislation. To avoid taxes, the structure needs to be changed to an ERIC (European Research Infrastructures Consortium). This will take at least a year to be implemented and SERI will not be able to give money to this structure before implementation and Swiss parliament agreement. This complication and delay is obviously a major problem for Teresa Montaruli and the rest of the CTA team to fund the CTA R&D in the next two years. The needed amount is however not extremely high for this time-period, of the order of a couple of hundred kCHF to build the camera demonstrator in competition with an Italian prototype. It is felt that this could be solved internally at the University of Geneva. For Florencia Canelli at the University of Zurich there is less of a problem since the deliveries are mechanical structures that are less dependent on a delayed payment. CHIPP could discuss with SERI and SNSF/FLARE to try to find a solution.

→ TN: to contact SERI and SNSF-FLARE to find a solution for CTA funding

15. News from EPPCN meeting

AB reports about the EPPCN meeting held at CERN on 4–5 May. EPPCN wishes more involvement from the representatives of the Member States (MS) by pushing conferences and special events. Social Media activities are seen as a good mean to reach for more people especially the younger ones. The participation of the representatives in working groups is requested. All this is a way to enhance the visibility of national laboratories and researchers.

Several Events and conferences were announced:

- Dark Matter Day, 31 October 2017: CERN is initiating a new idea to promote events related to dark matter on Halloween's day. CERN will prepare in June a website with a starting-kit on how to organise events in institutes and universities. The movie "Phantom of the Universe" will be available for free to be shown at the events.
- EPS-HEP, Venice, 5-12 July 2017: The EPS-HEP conference in Venice this year could be an opportunity for Swiss participating physicists to give an interview to journalists. AB suggests contacting the Swiss participants and proposing them this opportunity.
- ESOF 2018, Toulouse, July 2018: The ESOF conference is about sharing science. CERN is preparing a proposal for a session. Maybe some Swiss physicists could wish to contribute.

- WCSJ 2017 and 2019: The World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ) is a big conference for scientific journalists. In 2017, it will take place in San Francisco, where it will be decided if the next venue will be Lausanne in 2019. In this case it would be very interesting for journalists to visit particle physics or astronomy institutes in Switzerland, such as CERN, PSI and also EPFL.

AB also reports that there are different social media campaigns that have been launched recently by CERN, the #FollowFriday, "Guess What It Is" (presenting intriguing science images provided by the community), and "Throwback Friday" (old photos in relation with CERN). To possibly become active in these new initiatives, AB proposes to gain expertise on social media at the CERN Press Office. She is thus ready to participate in two working group: one on knowledge transfer and the second on social media campaigns. She will also contact the CERN Swiss Liaison Officer and Hans Peter Beck regarding the accounts for VerflixtesHiggs on Facebook, Twitter and maybe Instagram.

→ AB: to prepare a "could be done" list for subsequent discussion

→ AB: to contact Hans Peter Beck concerning the social media account

16. **CHIPP Prize**

AS reports about the CHIPP prize. The call was very successful this year with 11 nominations received and a high level of the candidates, as usual. The evaluation is on-going and a meeting is foreseen on June 6th, to converge on the short list. It is not yet decided whether to do real or Skype interviews of the shortlisted candidates. The decision on the winner shall be endorsed by the EB at its meeting of early July. MW is ready to prepare the CHIPP price certificate at the University of Bern, as in previous years.

17. **FLARE computing position for ATLAS**

As a follow-up of the discussion at the last EB meeting, MW reports that Christoph Grab talked to a contact person at CSCS, Lugano in view of outsourcing some of the activity to Gianfranco Sciacca at the University of Bern. Actually, Sciacca already started this activity on April 1st and he is now waiting for a concrete proposal from CSCS to outsource this activity paid by FLARE computing funding. A declaration from CSCS that they cannot fulfil the requirements for ATLAS would also be needed.

18. **Swiss representatives to ICFA Seminar 2017**

TN quickly reminds his message to the Board members for proposing candidates to be invited to the ICFA Seminar 2017. Two persons have been proposed: Günther Dissertori and Angela Papa. TN notes that this is a nice combination and as there was no objection from the Board members, the two names will be communicated and these people shall then receive an official invitation to attend the conference.

19. **Other news**

AS notes that for the SCNAT funding request due by the 25th of August, the Zuoz school shall also be included. The list is thus quite long with the CHIPP workshops, the Zuoz School 2018, in addition to the continuation of the outreach activity on the SCNAT web portal and the IPPOG membership.

20. **Status of future meetings**

- Joint SPS/CHIPP Annual Plenary 2017, 21–25 August 2017, Geneva: the reminder for abstract submission was sent out. TN notes that he discussed with Andreas Schopper the possibility to have three more general presentations on the LHC experiment upgrades. Given by senior scientists they would possibly also include the industrial participation for the different components of the three experiments.

21. **A.O.B.**

TN together with all the presents thanks MT for his work as CHIPP Administrator since January 2014.

The Chair closes the meeting at 12:10.

The meeting is followed by an extraordinary EB lunch at the 'Arirang' restaurant for MT's farewell and to welcome AB as new CHIPP Administrator.

23 May 2017

written by: Angela Benelli & Marc Türlér

approved by: Tatsuya Nakada