

Editorial: The Revival of ACTA IMEKO

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The first issue of the official publication of IMEKO was published in 1958, the year that IMEKO was founded. The title of this issue was simply "Acta Imeko 1958", with subtitle "Proceedings of the International Measurements Conference" printed in 5 languages on the second page (Figure 1). The publication was issued by the Hungarian Sci. Soc. for Measurement & Automation.

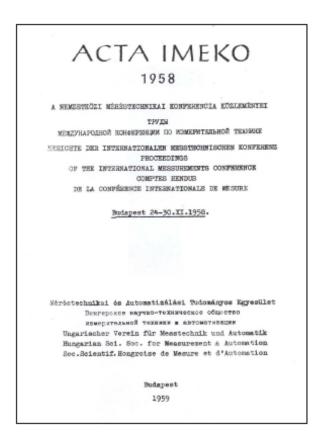


Figure 1. Image of the second page of the first issue of Acta IMEKO, 1958.

That issue contains the papers presented at the first IMEKO World Congress, and since then is organized every three years. During many years, the contributions to IMEKO World Congresses were published in Acta IMEKO. Later, the Proceedings of the World Congresses were issued by the organizers as Proceedings, and the name Acta IMEKO disappeared from these printed versions.

In the last decades, the printed proceedings were gradually replaced by proceedings on CDROM's, and more recently on memory sticks. The proceedings of the TC-events followed the same development.

Selected papers from World Congresses and TC events were published in a newly established IMEKO journal "Measurement" which first issue came out in 1983. This journal evolved gradually into an international journal published by Elsevier, with scientific articles not only from IMEKO events but from scientists all over the world working in the realm of Measurement and Instrumentation. The restricted number of issues per year prevents publication of the many qualified contributions to IMEKO workshops, symposia and congresses. This was a major reason for the General Council of IMEKO to decide in 2009 to publish an e-Journal. Its main goal is the enhancement of academic activities of IMEKO and a wider dissemination of scientific output from TC events.

Starting a new journal is not just a matter of pushing a button. I am much indebted to the persons who assisted with the preparatory work. Special thanks go to Dirk Röske who is supervising the electronic platform underpinning this journal, Pedro Ramos who acted as the first guest editor and in this capacity had to brake fresh ground, and Francisco Alegria who designed the journal's template and act as the layout editor for all articles in this issue. Without their help it was not possible to create this first electronic version of Acta IMEKO as a modern successor of the original printed versions.

Hopefully this first special issue will soon be followed by many others presenting selected papers from future IMEKO events to the world-wide community of measurement scientists and engineers.