

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

### **IAMSLIC 2009, Brugge, Belgium**

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Wow, what a conference! This was only my second IAMSLIC (after Fiji in 2008), though I've been a member for several years. And both have been outstanding, in different ways and in very different venues.

Although it seems to have been the tradition in recent years for the Proceedings Editor to present a summary of the Conference, I think this year's requires no summary from me. From the warm welcome through days of intense sessions, outstanding poster presentations, the Green Flash sessions, the Guin Auction, and of course the networking sessions (fueled by Belgian chocolate), it was all good.

In Fiji we enjoyed open air and the proximity of the ocean, in modern buildings at the University of the South Pacific built to withstand potential tsumanis and other tropical storms. In Belgium we were in the heart of an old city, with narrow cobbled streets, horse-drawn carriages, canals, medieval buildings, charming little shops filled with lace and fancy chocolates (sometimes very creative!), and pubs with lots of different Belgian beers.

Our sessions were held in the Provincial Hof, a government building rebuilt in fairly recent times after the original was destroyed and no longer used for government business. It retained all the charm of the original – high ceilings, ornate wood carvings, fireplaces, stained glass – and provided an elegant background for our IAMSLIC business. Receptions and breaks were in the bright, beautiful Balcony Room, while sessions were held in the Hall, which had a truly medieval feel. The posters were in the Permanent Deputation Room and the ubiquitous – and much used – computers were in an adjacent room arranged just for us.

We were truly lucky to enjoy such wonderful facilities, and our European group, EURASLIC, did a marvelous job throughout in planning, providing everything we needed, and helping us enjoy the area. We owe many thanks to them for their outstanding hospitality!