

# ***Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents***

**Source: Board of Directors**

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## **Resolutions of the London meeting January, 2000**

1. FIPA approves the Secretariat's report of the previous three months concerning
  - Membership (currently 56 members) and status of fee payment,
  - Maintenance, subscription procedure and subscribers of E-mail reflectors
  - Maintenance of Web site
  
2. FIPA notes the report of the Board of Directors concerning
  - The expiration of the term of  
  
Hiroki Suguri (Comtec)  
  
as member of the Board of Directors. FIPA thanks him for his valuable efforts in helping FIPA achieve its goals so far.
  - The adoption of the new FIPA process:
    - The three major phases of specifications: PRELIMINARY, EXPERIMENTAL, STANDARD, as well as OBSOLETE, DEPRECATED.
    - Recommendation of establishment of an Architecture Board, governing the technical work of FIPA
  - The Board of Directors will issue a Press Release reflecting the events of this week by Feb. 11, 2000.
  
3. On the proposal of the Finance and Audit Committee, FIPA approves the following structure in the membership fees
  - Associate Member: 1750 CHF
  - Full Member: from 3500 CHF to 5000 CHFIn addition, consortia, individuals and small organisations are invited to participate as Associate Members (without voting rights). The increase in fees are required to enhance the professionalism of the Web site and FIPA's public relation activities.  
The secretariat is requested to re-examine if members can also pay in US dollars and Euros.  
The FAC will be re-staffed at the next meeting and will examine the finances on a semi-annual basis.
  
4. FIPA dissolves TC D. FIPA thanks TC D for its valuable contributions during the last year, and recognises that the work of TC D will be continued by the Architecture Board and in the Interop SIG.
  
5. FIPA creates the Architecture Board with the following scope:  
The purpose of the Architecture Board is to ensure that the technical work of FIPA is appropriate and that any official standards documents that are produced achieve the high level of quality demanded by FIPA and its membership. The Architecture Board has the following remit:
  - To ensure that FIPA specifications exhibit: consistency, coherence, integrity and merit.
  - To approve the advancement of FIPA specifications through the standard's life cycle.
  - To oversee the technical direction of FIPA and influence it where necessary.

- To maintain a registry of FIPA specifications and work plans.
- An archived e-mail reflector, [fab@fipa.org](mailto:fab@fipa.org), shall be created, comprising the members of the Architecture Board.

6. FIPA appoints to the Architecture Board:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Country</b>
Fabio Bellifimine	CSELT	IT
Thierry Bouron	France Telecom	FR
Phil Buckle	Nortel Networks	UK
Jonathan Dale	Fujitsu Laboratories of America	US
David Levine	IBM	US
Hiroki Suguri (Chair)	Comtec	JP

7. Resolutions of Boards, Technical Committees and Special Interest Groups

**Architecture Board Resolutions**

The Architecture Board proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions.

- The Architecture Board approves the PRELIMINARY status of the document "FIPA Architecture Board Policy".
- The Architecture Board approves the PRELIMINARY status of the classification of legacy documents.

**TC A Resolutions**

TC A proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions.

- FIPA thanks Prof. Sloman of Imperial College for his talk on policies.
- TC A will hold a interim meeting March 8-9, 2000 to be co-located with OMG in Denver
- TC A thanks the following for their contributions: Geoff Arnold, Jeff Bradshaw, Heimo Laamanen, David Levine, James Odell, Stefan Poslad, Kate Stout, Francis McCabe.

**TC B Resolutions**

TC B proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions

- TC B works towards the completion of the Terms of References expressed in January 1999. The specifications are stable now and will be decomposed into components. The following milestones have been defined:
  - release as PRELIMINARY specifications, Feb 15 2000
    - Agent Management
    - Agent Message Transport
  - propose for EXPERIMENTAL specifications, March 10 2000
    - Agent Management
    - Agent Message Transport
  - maintain the specifications
- Several proposals for workplans were drafted by companies working in TC B. They will be circulated through email, gathering feedback and will be submitted to the Architecture Board prior to the April meeting.
  - Component-based Agent Management & Transport specs
  - Towards an abstract architecture of Agent Management
  - Agent configuration management
  - Agent mobility
  - Message transport
  - Gateways
  - Security
- The following logistics will be used: email reflectors, presentations, written proposals.

- TC B gratefully thanks: Fabio Bellifemine, Phil Buckle, Bernard Burg, Jonathan Dale, Takahiro Kawamura, Kiyoshi Kogure, Takeshi Ohtani, Stefan Poslad, Ronnie Taib, and Steven Willmott. TC C thanks the other TCs for fruitful exchanges and cooperation.

### TC C Resolutions

TC C proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- **New Chairperson**  
TC C appoints Mark Greaves, Boeing, as its new chairman.
- **Current Workplan**  
TC C submits its workplan for bringing the FIPA 99 specifications through the new FIPA process to the Architecture Board.
- **PRELIMINARY Specifications**  
TC C approves the release of the following specifications with the status PRELIMINARY within 2 weeks. The TC Chair will submit them to the FIPA Architecture Board for approval as EXPERIMENTAL within one month thereafter, according to its currently published guidelines.  
Documents 00100-00114 specifying the Interaction Protocol Library (editor: James Odell)  
Documents 00115-00119 specifying the Content Language Library (editor: Monique Calisti)  
The numbering may be changed upon recommendation of the Architecture Board.
- **Draft Specifications**  
The documents relating to Agent Communication Language (editor: Jeremy Pitt) and Communicative Act Library (editor: Mark Greaves) are still in a draft phase. However, only editing work and no further technical work is required. The TC will finalise and approve them (via the `agent_comm@fipa.org` reflector) by latest March 6, 2000, for submission to the Architecture Board for approval as EXPERIMENTAL within one month thereafter, according to its currently published guidelines.
- **Future Workplans**  
The TC will discuss issues for future technical work and corresponding workplans via the reflector.
- **Thanks**  
TC C gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Thierry Bouron, Monique Calisti, Mark Greaves, Frank McCabe, Hiroki Iciki, Makoto Okada, James Odell and Donald Steiner as well as the members of TC A, TC B, and TC E.

### TC E resolutions

TC E proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- TC E accepted the workplan.
- The binding times for the publication of the PRELIMINARY version are the following:
  - Two weeks after the publication of either TC B's or TC C's document whichever is the later.
  - The current target date is 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 2000.
- The binding times for the publication of the EXPERIMENTAL version are the following:
  - At the same as the publication of TC B's documents (transport and management).
  - The current target date is 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2000 (at the end of Lisbon meeting).
- Future work
  - TC E decided to be a 'forum' for implementers of its specification to discuss various implementation issues.
  - If the Architecture Board accepts the workplan to specify gateways / mediators for message transport interoperability and messaging for nomadic application, then TC E is willing to carry out the work or appropriate parts of the work.
- Thanks
  - TC E gives special thanks to Heikki Helin, Michael Berger, Stefano Campadello, John Shepherdson, and Markku Tamski.
  - TC E thanks all other TCs for good co-operation and fruitful information and knowledge exchange.

### Liaison SIG resolutions

The Liaison SIG proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- A publicity / Image Committee has been created, with the mission to make FIPA more prominent to both the agent community at large, to the wider public, and to encourage innovation through academia.

Volunteer members are Rob Hadingham, Bernard Burg, David Levine, and David Evans. Discussions are to continue over the email reflector [image@fipa.org](mailto:image@fipa.org).

- Details of the various open source FIPA projects will be posted on the FIPA web pages - Rob to collate and give this to the Secretariat.
- The Web presence needs to be improved, FIPA Image Committee will assess this as part of their brief.
- The press release needs to be released to the press in future. FIPA Image Committee to discuss options further.
- The Liaison SIG RIOT meeting (Risks, Issues, Opportunities, Threats) 'brainstormed' a number of items for further discussion, these split broadly into 3 categories: Direction, Process, and Image. These will be assigned to the three groups respectively: Board of Directors, FIPA Architecture Board, and the FIPA Image Committee.

**Product Design and Manufacturing SIG resolutions**

The PD&M SIG proposes that FIPA adopt the following resolutions:

- Thank Ruth Aylett for her on the PLANET: European Network of Excellence in AI Planning, presentation and great input during our discussions of Product Design and Mfg. issues. We look forward to continued contact with the PLANET group.
  - Thank Francois Arlabosse, John Shepherdson, Jim Odell, Patrica Charlton, and Nina Berry for their participation in the January 2000 Product Design & Manufacturing SIG meeting.
  - Agree to develop a paper that will be used as a means of illustrating and promote the SIGs development in agents and manufacturing. Draft due July 2000, Completed paper due Oct. 2000.
  - Agree to accept the general set of slides to be used to promote Product Design & Mfg. SIG, after modifications have been made to the slide set.
  - Continue to use contacts to promote and attract new members to participate in Product Design & Mfg. SIG.
  - The next meeting will take place in Boston (together with AAAI SIGMAN Group) for July 2000. (Note: PD&M SIG will not be meeting in April.)
  - Get someone from FIPA to attend the OMG manufacturing domain task force meeting this year.
8. FIPA reiterates its Call for Workplans in full expectation that it will receive valuable contributions. FIPA emphasises the use of the email reflector, [workplan@fipa.org](mailto:workplan@fipa.org), to facilitate communication between FIPA members wishing to initiate new work plans
9. FIPA creates the Interop SIG, to be chaired by Hiroki Suguri (Comtec), with the following scope: The purpose of the Interop SIG is to promote the interoperability trials, open source movement and application development and deployment. In order to achieve these goals, the SIG will:
- Coordinate demonstrations of agent technology implementing or supporting the FIPA specifications
  - Coordinate applications competitions (the first one to take place at the April 2000 FIPA meeting)
  - Maintain documents
    - FIPA-related software
    - Field trials
    - Developer's Guide
  - Manage the related web contents
- The SIG will continue to use the reflector [interop@fipa.org](mailto:interop@fipa.org)
10. FIPA welcomes the list of FIPA-related software developed by members and non-members.
11. FIPA welcomes the description of FIPA field trials being conducted or planned by members, non-members and consortia.
12. FIPA thanks ÆGISfor their effort in implementing and demonstrating the Meeting Scheduling Application and fulfilling its contract of August 11,1999. The corresponding software will be made publicly available, according to the terms of the contract.
13. FIPA thanks the following individuals for providing demonstrations of FIPA implementations:

	Title	Name	Affiliation
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1.	Meeting Scheduling Application	Denis Pierre	ÆGIS
2.	FACTS Personal Travel Market & ASL	Richard Evans	Broadcom
3.	Agent Workflow and SAMBA	Brian Odgers, Simon Thompson	BT
4.	ZEUS: Agent Building Toolkit	Lyndon Lee	BT
5.	IDIoMS: Intelligent Distributed Information Management System		BT & Fujitsu
6.	JADE	Fabio Bellifemine	CSELT
7.	FIPA-OS	Phil Buckle	Nortel
8.	Using Agents to Support Nomadic Users	Stefano Campadello, Mikko Makela, Sasu Takorma	Univ. of Helsinki

and invites companies to make further demonstrations of agent-based products and applications at the next FIPA meeting in Lisbon.

14. FIPA thanks British Telecom for offering FIPA excellent meeting facilities and friendly support in London and for hosting its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, in particular: Gary Jones, Liz Hobson, John Shepherdson. PLEASE FILL OUT QUESTIONAIRES – THANKS.
15. FIPA invites its membership and contributors to the FIPA process to its next meeting, April 3-7 in Lisbon, Portugal, to be hosted by ADETTI.