



BALTECH ANNUAL REPORT

Academic year 2006-2007

1. Summary and highlights

BALTECH is undergoing a constant change and is adapting itself to the needs of the member universities.

The highlights of 2006/2007 were

- *the set up of a mobility scholarship*
- *identification of common areas of interest through a study tour*
- *the set up of a BALTECH student body.*
- *a 300.000 SEK master scholarship contribution from ÅF-Consul, Sweden*
- *a renewed Erasmus Mundus application*
- *the conference „New Approaches to University Structure and Management“.*

BALTECH is competing on the academic market with numerous very attractive university consortiums, thus it is not always very easy to attract the interest from the universities. One of the main objectives has been to focus on topics of a common interest to all member universities.

The contacts between Sweden and Finland on the one side and the Baltic republics on the other side are given highest priority by governments and politicians in the entire region. Also business contacts are extremely intense. In light of this, BALTECH has an important role, to act as a forum in the field of studies and research related technology.

2. Finances

Baltech is 100% financed by members. In the calendar year 2006 each university contributed with 5.000 Euro. Since the finances of BALTECH are good, and since spending has been much less than expenditure, the annual fee was reduced to 3.000 Euro in 2007.

All BALTECH funds are administered by the university hosting the secretariat, ie at present they are with TTU.

3. Research projects

Baltech is engaged in one research project (the Task Forces) and is waiting for approval of two Erasmus Mundus projects.

3.1 Task Forces

The aim of the Task forces has been to identify research areas of common interest. The Task Forces have come alive after a rather dormant period.

The present task force areas are:

- *ECO Systems Management*
- *Sustainable Transport*
- *Integrated management systems for sustainability*
- *Clean Energy*

3.2 Erasmus Mundus

BALTECH has applied for Erasmus Mundus funding, so far in vein, for the following projects for a couple of years:



- *Environmental management and Cleaner Production*
and
- *Industrial Engineering and Management*

Both were again rejected in 2006, but after negotiations in Brussels, we were encouraged to apply also in the spring of 2007. This has been done.

4. Conference

In 2006 it was decided that BALTECH will only arrange one annual conference, in the spring every year. The 2007 spring topic was "New Approaches to University Structure and Management". The conference took place on March 31, 2007, in Stockholm. The target group of the conference was academic and administrative staff at the universities working with questions related to the conference topic.

5. Student activities

A BALTECH Student Union was set up in 2006. The aim of the union is to enhance cooperation between student unions at the BALTECH universities. The students have been given free hands from the BALTECH board to come up with ideas and suggestions on common topics of interest and how work should be organized. A first "get-to-know-each other-meeting" took place in Tallinn on June 15-16, 2006 and a second one in October. The students have agreed on statutes and an activity plan has been worked out. This includes a summer camp in Lithuania in July 2007.

There is a general consent among board members that BALTECH should encourage student activities and a considerable amount of the total BALTECH budget has been allocated for this purpose.

6. Scholarship

The first round of BALTECH mobility scholarships was announced in January 2007. The scholarship is open for short term (maximum eight weeks) study tours, field trips and conferences. All in all, eleven applications were handed in and five scholarships were given out. One of the main criteria was mobility.

ÅF Consult, one of the leading technical consulting companies in Sweden has set aside 300.000 SEK for master students at the Baltic BALTECH universities. The money will be available as from January 2008.

7. Board meetings

Two board meetings have been arranged:
October 26, 2006 in Helsinki
and
March 1, 2007, in Stockholm.

8. Web page

The web-page www.baltech.info, which was launched in 2005, is constantly being adapted to the needs of BALTECH and it is being used more and more. When the web site was worked out, the prime objective was user-friendliness based on functionality and topics rather than university specific information.

9. Study Tour



The BALTECH Secretariat (Toomas Käbin and Hedvi Valgemäe) conducted a study tour to all the BALTECH universities in the winter 2006/2007. This was done in line with the decisions from the rectors' meeting in Helsinki in June 2006. The aim has been to look into possibilities to further improve and streamline everyday cooperation between the universities involved.

The study tour has given a considerable number of new ideas for future projects, such as staff exchange, and joint master programs.

10. Administrative routines and lines of communication

Short weekly meetings are held at TTÜ with the Chairman of the Board (prof Jakob Kübarsepp), the Secretary of Baltech (Toomas Käbin) and the web administrator (Hedvi Valgemäe). As of late also a representative of the International Office (Maret Hein) has attended. Students attend the meetings according to need.

Pertinent information on all Baltech activities is constantly provided to the board members, who in turn are requested to carry on the information within their respective university.

12. Agreements

BALTECH has signed the following agreements:

- Lennart Nilsson/KTH as a coordinator of the Task Forces.
- Käbin Consulting OÜ/Toomas Käbin as secretary of the Baltech.

13. Problems

From the Secretariat we feel that the response and feedback to our ideas and suggestions is rather weak, this also goes for implementation of issues that have jointly been agreed upon.

Further, it seems that the information sent by the secretariat to the universities does not reach beyond the board members. Thus contacts have been intensified with the International Relations Offices, who are more acquainted with operational work.

Jakob Kübarsepp
Vice rector

Toomas Käbin
Secretary