Badges of one size, names of every length

The eight boxes below are the same box, cut before anyone knew who would wear it. Each name is handed the box it has to fit and asked what size it fits at: the sizes step down by a quarter of a point, each one broken to the width of the box and weighed against its height, and the name is set at the first size that holds. Nothing here is measured by hand, and no name is shortened.

One box, eight names

Ana Ruiz
Speaker

Set at 22.00 points

Wei Chen
Attendee

Set at 22.00 points

Marguerite Vandenbossche
Session chair

Set at 14.25 points

Jean-Baptiste Delaunay
Press

Set at 16.50 points

Konstantinos Papadopoulos
Workshop host

Set at 14.00 points

Aleksandra Wiśniewska-Kowalczyk
Organiser

Set at 11.25 points

Åsa Lindqvist
Volunteer

Set at 22.00 points

Mohammed Al-Rashid ibn Saleh
Exhibitor

Set at 12.25 points

Where the shrinking stops

A floor is given along with the box, and the size never goes under it: a name shrunk until it disappears is worse than a name that runs over. The luggage tag below is far too small for the name it carries, so the floor is what comes back, and the tag is drawn at the floor and clipped to its own edges. What to do about a box no size fills is the caller's to decide: draw it clipped, as here, print the name on a second line, or hand the register back a name it has to shorten.

Bartholomew Christopher

At the floor, clipped to the tag

The size that comes back is never larger than the one asked for, so a short name is set at the size the design chose and only a long one comes out smaller. Every badge on this sheet went through the same call, and the size printed under each is the one it handed back.