# Newsletter

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dear Members!

Another very active year for the IFSR has passed and I am proud to have the privilege to support these activities. For me, personally, much has changed: Since October 1st, 2007 I am a Professor Emeritus of the University of Linz. This has some dramatic changes for me and also for my job as Secretary General of the IFSR: I can devote more time to the IFSR, on the other hand I do not have any secretarial support from the university any more. So be patient if some things get delayed. On the other hand I hope you have noticed the increased activity on our homepage. This is now our primary medium of information exchange and communication – please use it and support it by supplying information. This drastically changes the purpose of the IFSR-Newsletter: I think that only information of an archival value should go into the newsletter. This precludes short-term announcements of conferences etc. – These you find on the web-site! And it is more up-to-date!

But this Newsletter will inform you of major activities of the IFSR, especially in the past year – you will be surprised, how diversified the IFSR has become in its intentions.

Let me now wish you all

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year 2009*
*Gerhard Chroust*
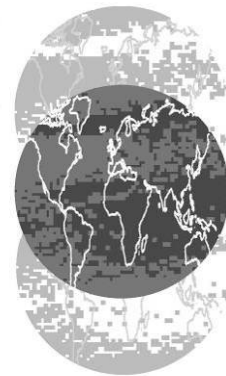
# Our new Vice-President: Yoshiteru Nakamori:

In the Board Meeting on March 26, 2008 in Vienna (see p.14) the IFSR Board elected a new vice president: Prof. Yoshiteru Nakamori, Japan.

**Prof. Yoshiteru Nakamori**
School of Knowledge Science,
Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, 1-1 Asahidai, Nomi, Ishikawa 923-1292, Japan, nakamori@jaist.ac.jp
**Degrees** : B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees, all in applied mathematics and physics, from Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, in 1974, 1976, and 1979, respectively
**Professional Career** :
- Professor in Department of Applied Mathematics at Konan University (1991),
- Professor of School of Knowledge Science (1998-),
- Presidential Advisor at JAIST (1999-2000),
- Dean of School of Knowledge Science (2002-)

**Special Interests:**: Systems Methodology, Environmental Studies, Agent-based Simulation, Creative Environment-Issues of Creativity Support for the Knowledge Civilization Age
**Extramural Activities**
• International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Researcher (1984-1985)
• National Institute for Environmental Studies, Visiting Researcher(1986-)
• Dalian University of Technology, Visiting Professor(1992-)

Address: 1-50 Asahidai, Nomi, Ishikawa 923-1211, Japan
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# Yoshiteru Nakamori's welcome statement

I am indeed honored of the duty of the vice-president of IFSR as the representative of Asian systems scientists. I will do my best for the development of IFSR, and at the same time, I sincerely feel happy to cooperate with excellent systems researchers in the world. Now I am trying to understand the role of IFSR and my obligation within IFSR.

We established an international society for knowledge and systems sciences in 2003 and since then we have been organizing a conference every year and publishing a journal at four issues a year. My desire is to develop methodologies, methods and tools to integrate systems engineering with knowledge management; the latter attracted world-wide attention in recent years.

Systems research should be, by its definition, interdisciplinary. However, it is a pity that this disciplinary is divided into hard and soft schools. In the society introduced above, which is now a member of IFSR, we are trying to integrate hard and soft so that systems research could be actually utilized to solve complex problems in a variety of fields.

I believe that IFSR is playing a role of unifying a variety of systems researchers and societies in the world, or at least offering the "Ba" (a Japanese word which refers to not only a physical space but also more mental spaces which involve sharing experiences and ideas) for mutual understanding and cooperation. Again, I am pleased to work with all members of IFSR.

## New contact data for IFSR

*With the retirement of Gerhard Chroust from the University of Linz, he has moved to his private home in Maria Enzersdorf, some 15 km south of Vienna. He now works from his home.*
*As a consequence contact data of the IFSR had to be changed to remain efficient.*
*Robert Trappl has volunteered to provide the new domicile for the IFSR.*
*The new official address of the IFSR is now as follows:*

*International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR))*
c/o OSGK – Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies
Freyung 6/6,
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 664 28 29 978,
fax: +43 1 5336112-20
E-mail: gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at
Home-page: http://www.ifsr.org

## At your Service: IFSR's homepage!   http://www.ifsr.org

Homepages have in the meantime become the no. 1 means of communicating fast, efficient and asynchronously with a large heterogeneous and geographically dislocated group like the IFSR members.
Since Noveber 2006 the IFSR has a modern home page which allows effective interaction between the member societies and also between the members of our member societies.
 It can be the key for a more active role of the IFSR in the systems community provided the members use it as such.
The home-page is hosted at the Austrian Computer Society which due to its size and professionality guarantees continuity and seurity, including updating the system base with the Secretary General as the web master
The home page is implemented using open source tool DRUPAL. And at the moment we only use a fractions of the possibilities DRUPAL is able to offer (see www.//http:drupal.org)..
Very soon a 'Photo Gallery' will be opened where pictures from past IFSR events will be posted!'

ACCESS RULES for http://www.ifsr.org"::
- EVERYBODY is allowed to READ (practically) all pages including comments made to them.
- In order to provide any input you have to REGISTER, choosing a user-name and providing your e-mail-address  A detailed instruction of how to register can be found on the first page the web-site under 'FAQ'.

- Registered Persons can ADD COMMENTS to all those pages, where comments are enabled.
- The web master will grant further privileges to selected users (e.g. Board Members of the IFSR) which enables them to add, change, and modify home pages themselves- without sending the stuff to the web master! To become privileged please send a message to the webmaster requeistiong this. – The user-id alone it is not sufficient to identify a person.
- It is expected that the member societies maintain some of the information themselves, especially conference announcements etc.

Currently the following user classes exist:
- **Registered user**: may make comments on certain pages
- **VIP** (very important person): may additionally add page contents to some pages
- **P-C-Member**:  (member of an IFSR Committee or Project)
- **Board Member** (representative of a member society)
- **EC-Member** : (member of the Executive Committee**)**
- **Webmaster**

VIPs, P-C-Members, Board Members and EC-Members receive increasingly more rights with respect to reading from and writing to pages. We are still experimenting with the details of privileges.

| | |
|---|---|
| *dFSR* (logo) | # IFSR-Day at EMCSR on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008<br>## University of Vienna |

At the EMCSR 2008 IFSR again (like in 2006) organized a whole day (Wednesday, March 26th, 2008) with topics important for the systems community in general and IFSR in particular with the following schedule:

**9:00 – 9:30 What is the IFSR?** (PLENARY) (presentation of the IFSR, aims, achievements and plans)
(to be found on the IFSR Homepage)

**9:30 – 10:30 Ross Ashby Mmeorial lecture**: (PLENARY): Ross Ashby Memorial Lecture Of The IFSR:
Models and Systems for Knowledge Integration and Creation
*Prof.Dr. Yoshiteru Nakamori, Vice-President of the IFSR, School of Knowledge Science Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology Ishikawa, Japan*
(complete text to be found on the IFSR Homepage)

**11:00 – 17:30 Symposium: Systems Sciences - Challenges, Visions and Roadmaps**
(In PARALLEL with other symposia of EMCSR)

*Detailed Programme:*
**11:00 – 13:00 Session 1: Preserving and Utilizing past knowledge and Experience: (chair G. Chroust)**
- *Paper: Gerhard Chroust, W. Hofkirchner, Karl Müller: Vienna Systems Archive - Dream or maybe?*
- Paper: *Manfred Drack: Early System Thinking in Biology Exemplified by the works of Paul Weiss and Bertalanffy*
- *Workshop Discussion*

**14:00 – 15:3 Session 2: Establishing Communication between systems practitioners and theoreticians**, **(chair: G. Metcalf)**
- *Paper: Gary Metcalf: The Evolution of Conversation*
- *Paper: Christian Fuchs, Wolfgang Hofkirchner, Celina Raffl, Matthias Schafranek: The Web as Techno-Social System: The Emergence of Web 2.0*
- *Workshop Discussion*

**16:00 – 17:30 Session 3: Creating Excellence, Impact and Future Visions (chair: M. Mulej + Jifa Gu)**
- *Introduction: Matjaz Mulej: What does IFSR want to achieve?*
- *Paper: Matjaz Mulej and Jifa Gu: The international Academy of Cybernetics and Systems*
- *Workshop Discussion*

*The proceedings are published under*
*Trappl, R. (ed.):* "Cybernetics and Systems 2008". *Proc. European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research 2008, Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, Vienna 2008,* R.Trappl (ed.):
Vienna: Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies, ISBN 978-3-85206-175-7.

*Robert Trappl, Gerhard Chroust, Mulejp*



*Manfred Drack*



*Jennifer Wilby*



*Discussing the papers of Session 3*

| | **Ross Ashby Memorial Lecture:** |
|---|---|
| *IFSR logo* | **Models and Systems for Knowledge Integration and Creation**<br>**Yoshiteru Nakamori**<br>School of Knowledge Science, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology,<br>**1-1 Asahidai, Nomi, Ishikawa 923-1292, Japan, nakamori@jaist.ac.jp** |

*W. Ross Ashby (b. 1903, London, d. 1972) was a psychiatrist and one of the founding fathers of cybernetics. He developed the homeostat, the law of requisite variety, the principle of self-organization, and law of regulating models. He wrote Design for a Brain (1952) and an Introduction to Cybernetics (1956).*
*The commemorative lecture, sponsored by the International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR), is held every second year on the occasion of the EMCSR-Conference in Vienna.*

Many approaches to knowledge and technology creation have appeared for these 20 years. Their specific feature is that they try to utilize the irrational or a-rational creative abilities of the human mind, such as tacit knowledge, emotions and instincts, and intuition (Wierzbicki and Nakamori, 2006). In management science a novel approach was developed by Nonaka in 1992, with an international publication: *Knowledge Creating Company* (Nonaka and Takeuchi 1995). This is the now-renowned *SECI Spiral,* with its process- and algorithmic-like principle of organizational knowledge creation. This principle is revolutionary because it stresses steps leading to knowledge increase surely, based on the collaboration of a group in knowledge creation and on the rational use of irrational mind capabilities, namely tacit knowledge, which consists of emotions and intuition.

Historically, the first of such approaches is *Shinayakana Systems Approach* by Sawaragi, with first publications in Sawaragi and Nakamori (1990), in the field of decision and systems science. Being systemic and influenced by the soft and critical systems tradition, it did not specify a process-like, algorithmic recipe for knowledge and technology creation, only a set of principles for systemic problem-solving. To these principles belong: using intuition, keeping an open mind, trying diverse approaches and perspectives, being adaptive and ready to learn from mistakes, and being elastic like a willow but sharp as a sword - in short, *Shinayakana*.

Further development of the *Shinayakana Systems Approach* was given in Nakamori (2000), in a systemic and process-like approach to knowledge creation called *Knowledge Pentagram System or i-System.* The five ontological elements (or subsystems) of this system are *Intervention* (and the will to solve problems), *Intelligence* (and existing scientific knowledge), *Involvement* (and social motivation), *Imagination* (and other aspects of creativity), and *Integration* (using systemic

knowledge). True to the *Shinayakana* tradition, there is no algorithmic recipe for how to move between these ontological nodes: all transitions are equally advisable, according to individual needs. Thus, *i*-System stresses the need to move freely between diverse dimensions of creative space.

• *Intervention*: Taking action on a problem situation. First we ask: what kind of knowledge is necessary to solve the new problem? Then the following three subsystems are called on to collect that knowledge.

• *Intelligence*: Raises our capability to understand and learn things. The necessary data and information are collected, scientifically analyzed, and then a model is built to achieve simulation and optimization.

• *Involvement*: Raising the interest and passion of ourselves and other people. Sponsoring conferences and gathering people's opinions using techniques like interview surveys.

• *Imagination*: Creating our own ideas on new or existing things. Complex phenomena are simulated based on partial information, by exploiting information technology.

• *Integration*: Integrating heterogeneous types of knowledge so that they are tightly related. Validating the reliability and correctness of the output from the above three subsystems.

From a viewpoint of social science, Zhu (2004) explored the *i*-System as a (re-) structurationist model for knowledge management. Viewed through *i*-System, knowledge is (re-)constructed by actors, who are constrained and enabled by structures that consist of a scientific-actual, a cognitive-mental and a social-relational front, mobilize and realize the agency of themselves and of others that can be differentiated as intelligence, imagination and involvement clusters, engage in rational-inertial, postrational-projective and arationalevaluative actions in pursuing sectional interests.

The *i*-System has several applications such as a guideline to develop a knowledge archive system, a guideline to develop technology roadmaps, or a guideline to develop an evaluation system of research activities and environments in academia.

In this presentation, we first consider the emergence of knowledge sciences and introduce the school of knowledge science at Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and knowledge creation models in academia. Then, we introduce the *i*-System (or the knowledge pentagram system) with some applications. For further details, see the books by A. P. Wierzbicki and Y. Nakamori (2005, 2007)

**References**
1. A. P. Wierzbicki and Y. Nakamori: Creative Space - Models of Creative Processes for the Knowledge Civilization Age. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2006.
2. Nonaka and H. Takeuchi: The Knowledge-creating Company - How Japanese Companies Create the Dynamics of Innovation. Oxford University Press, New York, 1995.
3. Y. Sawaragi and Y. Nakamori: Shinayakana Systems Approach in Modeling and Decision Support. Proc. of 10th Int. Conf. on Multiple Criteria Decision Making} Vol. I, pp.77-86, Taipei, Taiwan, July 19-24, 1992.
4. Y. Nakamori: Knowledge Management System toward Sustainable Society. Proc. of the 1st International Symposium on Knowledge and Systems Sciences, pp. 57-64, Ishikawa, Japan, September 25-27, 2000.
5. Y. Nakamori and Z. Zhu: Exploring a Sociologist Understanding for the i-System. International Journal of Knowledge and Systems Sciences, Vol.1, No.1, pp.1-8, 2004.
6. A. P. Wierzbicki and Y. Nakamori: Creative Space - Models of Creative Processes for the Knowledge Civilization Age. 289p., Springer, December, 2005.
7. A. P. Wierzbicki and Y. Nakamori, Eds.: Creative Environments - Issues of Creative Support for the Knowledge Civilization Age. 509p., Springer, 2007.

# Membership Survey

## Benefits from IFSR and
## potential changes to Fuschl Conversations

Please participate in the survey !
**(Deadline March 10, 2009)**

Dear IFSR member representatives!
In order to keep pace with the changing needs of our members, we would like to have your input. On the IFSR web site (www.ifsr.org) you will find (item "Membership Survey 2009" a brief survey which asks about the benefits that you receive as an organizational member of the Federation. In addition, there are questions about potential changes to the Fuschl conversations. We ask that you take a moment to go to the site and complete the survey, so that we can better plan our future activities.
*The Survey will be open January 2nd to March 10th, 2009*

*Thank you, The IFSR Executive Committee*

# 14th Fuschl Conversation 2008

# (Saturday March 29 - Thursday April 3, 2008)

# Why conversation and what form do they take?

The Fuschl Conversations were established by the IFSR in 1980, primarily under the guidance of Bela H. Banathy, as an alternative to traditional conferences.  A number of systems professionals found that they were disillusioned with a format in which the majority of the time was spent on papers being read or presented to passive listeners, with minimal time for discussion and interaction about the ideas.  The Fuschl Conversations took on quite a different nature.  As described by Bela, they were to be:
• a collectively guided disciplined inquiry,
• an exploration of issues of social/societal significance,
• engaged by scholarly practitioners in self-organized teams,
• who select a theme for their conversation,
• which is initiated in the course of a preparation phase that leads to an intensive learning phase.

Fuschl am See has been the setting for the Conversations ever since their beginning.  It is a beautiful, romantic little Austrian village on a small lake (Lake Fuschl) in lovely Salzkammergut, near Salzburg in Austria. It is surrounded by mountains of approx. 1600m height.

Under Bela's guidance, the individual teams pursued their own areas of inquiry, but within a general framework that allowed for learning across the teams.  Over time, this cross-interaction became more difficult as teams diversified in their topics and approaches.

In 2006, the Fuschl Conversation was devoted to bringing representative members of the IFSR together, in order to consider the role of the Federation in relation to its member organizations.  In 2008, the Conversation returned to a more traditional format, but with an overall theme of Systems Research and Education, to which each of the teams were to contribute in their own ways.

The next Fuschl Conversation is planned for 2010.  Input about the format and location which will best fit the needs of member organizations will be asked through a questionnaire on the IFSR web site, in preparation for that meeting.

>>> A full set of photos from Fuschl 2008 can be found under 'Photo Gallery' on IFSR's homepage





Thanking Ms. Idinger, the host

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**Team 1:** *Progressing the integrations of Systems courses and concepts into universities*
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T his group had the initial remit of basic concepts in systems sciences, and their use in systems education. The conversation led us through a process of generative strategic dialogue on the themes of the quality of education, the different ways that systems knowledge can be applied in education, the main concepts that might be taught, and the ways in which we might match these concepts with the different types of systems education.



Through this process, we came to realize that differences in systems education are based on two main dimensions: the depth and type of systems knowledge required, and whether systems concepts are taught *per se* or rather through application within one or more specific disciplines. The table below illustrates the main result of our work, the Systems Education Matrix, which identified six types of recipients of systems education, with examples of each of these types.

### The Systems Education Matrix

|  | 1. Sense-Making<br>Having the ability to use basic systems concepts to make sense of phenomena, objects and processes in the world. | 2.1. Practical Mastery (with ability to add to the knowledge base).<br>Having the ability to competently use or apply systems concepts for research or practice. The ability to expound upon or teach systems concepts to others. | 2.2. Theoretical Mastery (with ability to practice).<br>In a position to add competently to the body of systems knowledge (viz., philosophy, theory, methodology, and praxis), as well as areas of practical application in specific contexts. |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A. Discipline-Integrated**<br>Having the ability to integrate systems approaches into one or more disciplines or areas of application. | e.g. horticulturalist, accountant | e.g. systemic horticulturalist | e.g. creator of knowledge within systemic horticulture |
| **B. Generic**<br>Having the ability to understand, apply, and relate systems concepts in multiple contexts and/or to add to the systems knowledge base. | systems student | systems practitioner | creator of Systems knowledge |

We described in more detail the capacities which apply to people who would receive education at the levels defined by the three columns and two rows in the matrix. Examples of these capacities include:
*1. Sense-making*: see things holistically; understand interconnectedness
*2.1. Practical mastery*: effectively manage messy, ill-defined situations; facilitate integration across disciplines
*2.2. Theoretical mastery*: deeply understand multiple systems approaches; refine and/or develop new system approaches

*A. Discipline-integrated*: understand how their field of interest fits into the bigger picture
*B. Generic*: identify meaningful and potentially useful patterns among multiple disciplines or areas of knowledge.

Although we had initially expected to map systems concepts to the six cells of the matrix, we came to realize that this is a task that must be left for individual educators within the contexts of their own disciplines and the needs of their universities. In particular, each university (and programme of study) specifies different attributes that will be expected of their

graduates. We also acknowledged that the concepts contribute to the content of courses, but of equal importance to the quality of the course is the teaching and learning style.



## Team 2: **The trajectory of systems research and practice**
**David Ing  (CND) (daviding@coevolving.com)**
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Solomons Leonie (UK)   leonie.solomons@gmail.com
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One of the great dilemmas for systems researchers and practitioners is the sense that we are constantly swimming against a current, so to speak, of ever-greater specialization and diversification.   For many years university programs, and even individual courses, specifically about systems theories, have struggled to survive – largely because they did not fit within a defined discipline.  Oddly, this has occurred while systems concepts and language have continued to grow in common usage, along with the recognition that many problems faced by people around the world are systemic in nature.



Given these dilemmas, the general question around which Team 2 formed their Conversation was, "in what direction should the future of systems research and practice be heading?" Part of the question had to do with building on the work of the founders and many luminaries connected with systems ideas over the last 50 years.  Another aspect was finding relevance to the real-world issues that people face, and with which practitioners are confronted.



A foundation for the conversation had been established in previous meetings between four of the five participants.  In this event, though, it was the work of Team 1 which provided a framework around which the conversation actually took shape.

Team 1 had established a matrix categorizing various types and levels of systems knowledge that might be needed by different people.  This was modified by Team 2, as shown below:

| | Explicitness of systems knowledge --> | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1.    Systems    knowledge implicitly    applied    in sense-making | 2.    Systems    knowledge    explicitly applied practically | 3.    Systems    knowledge mastery,        at theoretical depths |
| A.    Systems    knowledge integrated    with    domain knowledge            (i.e. multidisciplinary) | A1.    Systems    concepts applied within a domain by a practitioner, possibly without a systems vocabulary | A2. Systems concepts applied within a domain by a practitioner, with the explicit use of systems vocabulary, possibly    adapted    to    disciplinary language | A3. Development of new systems    concepts    and language driven by practice within a domain |
| B.        General systems knowledge,    developed    in    a pure        sense        (i.e. interdisciplinary / transdisciplinary) | B1.   (not developed within Team 2's conversation) | B2.  (not developed within Team 2's conversation) | B3.  (not developed within Team 2's conversation) |

In essence, not everyone who needs or uses systems wants or needs to know the history or the philosophical or scientific roots. An example consistent with the above distinctions parallels roles assigned in the design and delivery of engagements, within IBM Global Services.

- A1: a *consultant* takes accountability for producing work products and deliverables to specification, e.g. a "business direction" artifact predefined as a work product, rather than a "strategy" artifact where the purest definition of strategy can include deception, which isn't helpful in constructing information systems;
- A2: a *methodology exponent* takes accountability to assist joint teams of clients and consultants with the selection of appropriate modules for execution within an engagement, excluding other work as out of scope so that engagements goals can be achieved within budgets; and
- A3. a *methodology author* takes accountability to develop reusable -- rather than situational -- engagement models including work products and technique papers, as modules within an enterprise system of methods.



A second example discussed by the team was conflict resolution in Sri Lanka, between the existing government and the Tamil groups. While a great deal of discussion took place over the four days of conversation, the most critical finding was probably the need for the relevance of systems knowledge compared to the setting and the people involved. For novices in the system movement, relevance defines the entry point into which systems practice and system research can enter. Three levels are suggested:

- 1. Systems concepts applied implicitly within a domain, using neither explicit systems vocabulary nor formal systems concepts.
- 2. Systems vocabulary explicitly applied in the domain, with additional meaning overloaded by a disciplinary context.
- 3. Systems foundations applied rigourously within a domain, by systems experts with a depth of understanding both in the domain at hand, and in the general isomorphisms across multiple disciplines.

|  | **Team 3: Disseminating, Accessing and Communicating Systems Knowledge**<br>**Herrscher Enrique (ARG) enriqueherrscher@fibertel.com.ar**<br>Blachfellner Stefan (AT) stefan.blachfellner@indaba-consulting.at<br>Chroust Gerhard (AT) gc@sea.uni-linz.ac.at<br>Hofkirchner Wolfgang (AT) wolfgang.hofkirchner@sbg.ac.at<br>Kalaidjieva Magdalena (BLG) mk@bitex.com<br>Ossimitz Günther (AT) guenther.ossimitz@uni-klu.ac.at |
|---|---|



The figure shows the metaphers we used.The most common problem in disseminating and preserving knowledge is the fragmentation of the new and the old knowledge basis, some of them hidden or difficult to access. In most cases there are people dedicated to the preservation, e.g. archiving or creating encyclopedias; and there are people who use these bases to apply it in research, lectures, talks, conversations, applications and who broaden and spread the knowledge base. After a certain period of time, e.g when those who created and those who apply a knowledge base are separated by age/generations, one can witness the

separation of two parties. The youngsters think the elders are talking about dead material, the elders think the youngsters are talking about applications they do not understand anymore, and feel being misunderstood or misinterpreted. Prejudices follow.



in the chosen metaphor, the well, with the inspirations it has caused? And would it not be fascinating to incorporate the ongoing created knowledge in the well, again? And would it not be worth to gather our efforts to create a system that is in a sense living, co-evolving, recognized as a valuable source of wisdom, for theoretical as well as practical problem solving?

we talked about the power of social networks and the creation of - a metaphor again - windows for people to look into the system of systems science and also most necessary the same windows for systems scientists to look out (mainly digital tools to guarantee open access). Questions still remain and should be further discussed; can we somehow support these gatherings? Can we bridge generations and schools within the already fragmentized field of systems science? Should we preserve this field of knowledge from being forgotten, not only in our societies but also in our universities? Is this purpose reasonable?

We first concentrated on the Well itself, prototypical the "International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics" (Saur 2004, 2nd Ed.) by Charles François where IFSR's intention is to preserve this heritage, and make it available

for a broader audience and to augment it (as started with the ESCO-project). . We thought of t an online project, perhaps like a Wikipedia. . A discussion followed about the differences between lay and expert knowledge and the quality of the contents produced by "everybody".



Further issues are
- Use and interconnect between different national languages (especially Spanish!)
- Defining the precise (?) meaning of terms and the evolvement of connotation over time
- unorthodoc means of 'spreading' films, cartoons, interactive interfaces, (perhaps sponsoring a competition )

Suggestions for the next step are:
- To continue the work on an electronic version of the "International Encyclopedia of Systems and Cybernetics" (ESCO)
- Create a living system of systems and cybernetics knowledge
- Attract young scholars
- Engage as many people as possible as readers as well as producers of systems and cybernetics knowledge and its applications
- Reach out – give systems science theory a voice (again) in diverse transdisciplinary studies and in our societies

|  | **Team 4:   Quality and Excellence in Systems Research**<br>**Laszlo Alexander (US) Syntony.Quest@usa.net**<br>**Laszlo Kathi (US) Syntony.Quest@usa.net**<br>Clusella, Maria M. C (ARG) mercedesclusella@gmail.com<br>Kiauta Marko (SI) kiauta.marko@amis.net<br>Löckenhoff Helmuth (D) loeckenhoff.hellk@t-online.de |
| --- | --- |

The chosen conversation to was: Applying Idealized Systems Design to advance the International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic Sciences as an Evolutionary Guidance System Our team worked with the recently approved proposal set before the IFSR for the establishment of an International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic Sciences (the IASCS or just the Academy) by

Matjaž Mulej and Jifa Gu (for the original proposal, see *Proceedings of the 19th European Meeting of Cybernetics and Systems Research*, vol. 2, p. 614). It was our



goal to provide a fresh look at how this magnificent, and now officially approved proposal that Matjaž and Jifa had worked so hard on crafting over the past three years, could be brought to life in fulfillment of it's true potential. We focused our efforts on considering *how the Academy could be informed by the notion of an Evolutionary Guidance System (EGS).* What would it have to do and to be in order to serve as the EGS for the IFSR — and in consequence, for the systems sciences considered as a



dynamic transdisciplinary, transgenerational, and transcultural field?

We realized is that if we were to design a way to vitalize the Academy as an open Living Institution, it would have to serve and co-evolve with its stakeholders. Otherwise, it would not operate in a way consistent with it's mission, vision and values. This simple realization had tremendous implications. We noted that failure to pay attention to it would make both the process and the outcome of our design ineffective and irrelevant.

In this light, the mission, vision and values that emerged from our consideration of the essence and potential of the Academy are as follows:

1. **Values Statement:** *Innovation and ethical interdependence are the core guiding values of the Academy.* Innovation without ethical interdependence is blind, and ethical interdependence without innovation is lame. Therefore, these values must exist in a relationship of mutual causality for the Academy to be a Living Institution.
2. **Vision Statement:** *The Academy promotes the contribution of the systems and cybernetic sciences in the transformation of society.*
3. **Mission Statement:** *To foster dynamic collaboration among systems scholars and practitioners in order to cultivate and disseminate systemic insight, understanding and wisdom.* To achieve this end, the Academy would need to embody and enact the following three primary action principles of an EGS: (a) *serving* its stakeholders;
(b) *monitoring* emerging needs and opportunities; and (c) *guiding* judicious use of systems concepts and practices.

The mission, vision and values of the Academy must exist in mutual causality. That is to say, as the conceptual platform of the EGS, they form an integral and interdependent system, themselves. The next steps in the shaping of the future of the IASCS will involve putting these principles into practice.

# IFSR Board Meeting  March 26, 2008

## 1      Attendance

*15 member societies were represented, partially in person, partially via transfer of votes*

## 2      Report from the President (Matjaz Mulej)

Matjaz Mulej  drew special attention to several points
• 25 year celebration, April 2007, Vienna - a great success
• IFSR day 2008
• Fuschl Conversation 2006 (held 22-27 April 2006)
• Fuschl Conversation (to be held March 29 to April 3, 2008)
• Encyclopedia Project (ESCO)
• International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic, discussing motivation, current status, next steps, statutes, etc.
• IFSR Publications (IFSR Web-Site, Newsletter, Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science, IFSR Book Series)
• Additionally he gave some outlook on the future

## 3      Report from the Secretary/Treasurer
### 3.1      Membership status
The UKSS (United Kingdom Systems Society) has withdrawn its membership as of end of 2007 (Dec 2008: The
IFSR has 36 members.
### 3.2      New members, since Board Meeting 2006
• Heinz von Foerster Gesellschaft http://www.univie.ac.at/heinz-von-foerster-archive/
Key persons: Albert Müller (albert.mueller@univie.ac.at) and Karl Müller (mueller@wisdom.at)
• Pentagram Research Centre Private Limited http://www.pentagramresearch.com/. Key person: Prof. Ethirajan G. Rajan
• Croatian Interdisciplinary Society (HID)
Key person: Prof. Dr. Josip Stipanic (josip.j.stepanic@fsb.hr).
• International Institute Galileo Galilei (IIGG)
www.fundaringenio.com.ar key persons: Charles Francois, Maria Mercedes Clusella

## 4      Financial Status and Outlook
There are only two sources of finance for the Society, one are royalties from Journal "Systems Research and Behavioral Science" (published by Wiley Interscience) and the membership fees. The current financial situation at the moment is healthy, but needs careful attention

## 5      IFSR-Activities
In the past 2 years the following activities were performed
  • IFSR 25 year celebration (April 19, 2006), including a Ashby Memorial lecture, a presentation of the IFSR and a full day of paper presentations and discussions
  • Fuschl Conversation 2006 (April 22-27, 2006) , including proceedings after the conference
  • IFSR-day 2008 (March 26 2008) including a Ashby Memorial lecture, a presentation of the IFSR

and a full day of paper presentations
- Fuschl Conversation 2008 (reported AFTER the Board Meeting), March 29 to April 3, 2008)
- New Web-site with Gerhard Chroust as Webmaster

# 6    IFSR Projects
- ESCO -Charles Francois - Encyclopedia *under way*
- The International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic *under way, in good shape, key persons Matjaz Mulej and Jifa Gu*
- System Archives Vienna *considerable discussions and consultations, key persons: Gerhard Chroust, Wolfgang Hofkirchner*

# 7    IFSR Publications
- The new Web-Site of the IFSR (www.ifsr.org) *operative since Nov. 2006*
- IFSR Newsletter *1 per year* Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science *very successful due to Prof. M. C. Jackson and Amanda Gregory*
- IFSR Book Series  (see Website and http://www.springer.com/series/6104)

# 8    Election of IFSR Officers
Prof. Jifa Gu resigned as vice president.
The Board elected as next Executive Committee:
- President: Prof. Dr. Matjaz Mulej (Slovenian Society for Systems Research)
- 1st Vice-President: Prof. Y. Prof. Yoshiteru Nakamori (International Society of Knowledge and Systems Science )
- 2nd Vice President: Dr. Gary Metcalf (Int. Society for the Systems Sciences)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Chroust (Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies)

# 9    Further Activities of the IFSR
- Fuschl 2010
- IFSR day at EMCSR 201
- next EC-Meeting : July 2009 (at ISSS 2008, Brisbane, Australia)
- Board Meeting: Wednesday April 7, 2010
- IFSR Day at EMCSR: Wednesday April 7, 2010
- Fuschl Conversation: Saturday April 10 - 15, 2010

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|  | **International Academy of Systems Science and Cybernetics – List of Relevant Journals!** |
|---|---|

In the meantime a list of journal dealing with systems theory and cybernetics in English has been  drafted. (see Web-Site for Details).

Matjaz Mulej comments:  As the president of IFSR and of its Academy committee I am grateful to Jennifer Wilby who has drafted the a list of journal dealing with systems theory and cybernetics in English.

We are asking all IFSR member associations to complete this list with journal of importance concerning publication on and by application of systems theory and cybernetic, both in English and in other languages.

Every suggestion is supposed to contain full data and the ranking/listing of the journal in international or national bases.

The best journals are – as they say officially – listed in Science Citation Index and/or Social Science Citation Index, but there are also many other possibilities, although formally less influential. The latter should not mean that they do not count at all. Some of them may be less easy to enter publications, but not all of them. Therefore there are four classes of journals (at least in the practice of my University of Maribor, Slovenia): 1. SCI and SSCI, 2. Other international citation lists such as EconLit etc., 3. Other international journals, 4. Local/national journals.

This list is supposed to help, one finalized and agreed upon, IFSR member associations and their candidates for Academy membership, as well as the Academy ruling bodies, do their job as honestly as possible.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and best regards,
Matjaz Mulej

# 52nd Annual Meeting of the ISSS
## *"Systems that Make a Difference"*
### July 13-18, 2008, Madison, USA

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Systems Sciences was held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, from July 13 – 18, 2008. It brought together professionals on the cutting-edge of the systems movement with influential decision makers facing far-reaching, real-world complexities on a daily basis

The theme for the conference was "Systems That Make a Difference".

Keynote speakers included:

- Timothy F. H. Allen, President-elect, ISSS (2009) and Professor, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin
- Steve Carpenter, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin
- Manfred Drack, Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science, Vienna, Austria
- Jon Foley, Professor, Department of Sustainability and Global Environment, University of Wisconsin
- David L. Hawk, Dean of the School of Management and Faculty in the New Jersey School of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Doug McDavid, Executive Research Consultant, Almaden Research Center, San Jose, CA
- Bobby Milstein, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Syndemics Prevention Network
- Bill Rouse, Professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, with a joint appointment in the College of Computing. Also, Fellow, International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) 2006 and recipient of the IBM Faculty Award in 2005 and 2006
- David Schwartz, Professor, Chemistry and Genetics, University of Wisconsin
- David Waltner-Toews, Professor, Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph and founding president of the Network for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health
- Jennifer Wilby, Director of the Centre for Systems Studies and faculty member in Management Systems at the University of Hull, UK

In addition, over 100 professional papers were presented in 20 different Special Integration Groups and related topical streams. Papers from the conference can be found at: http://journals.isss.org/index.php/proceedings52nd/issue/current . Selected papers from the conference will be published in an upcoming special issue of Systems Research and Behavioral Science. A retrospective of the conference will be published soon, and will be found through the main page of the ISSS web site: http://isss.org/world/ .

## HSSS launches the
## International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies (IJASS)

New from HSSS: International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies (IJASS)

IJASS, has launched a new official journal: It is dedicated to publishing quality manuscripts on all aspects of systemic analysis, from both a practical and an academic viewpoint. It publishes contributions from practitioners and academics, as well as national and international policy and standard making bodies, and sets out to be the definitive international reference source for such information.

The objectives of IJASS are to spread the science of systems and present the research and application results of its domain.

Published in 4 issues per year , ISSN (Online): 1751-0597 - ISSN (Print): 1751-0589

# 5th National & International HSSS Conference
# Hellenic Society for Systemic Studies (HSSS)

**Demokritus University of Thrace,**
**Department of Production and Management Engineering,**
**Xanthi, Greece.**

*"From Systemic Thinking to Systems Design and Systems Practice"*
**24th - 27th June, 2009**
**Submission deadline (Abstract): 20 March 2009**

### CALL FOR PAPERS

HSSS Conferences endeavour to provide a platform to foster multidisciplinary discussions and support debates on the different economical, historical, pedagogical, philosophical, scientific and technological issues surrounding systems studies. They seek to advance knowledge about the effective and efficient implementation of systemic thinking by individuals, groups, organizations, society and nations for the improvement of economic and social welfare.

Further information: http://hsss05.pme.duth.gr/docs/call_for_papers.doc, hsss05@pme.duth.g

# Traditional Berliner November
# November 7 – 10, 2007

The traditional „Berlin November", 2007 was divided into two blocs. The symposium "Cybernetics, evolutionary systems theory and dialectics" was held on November 7 and 8. The responsible organizations were the German Association for Cybernetics (GfK) and the Leibnitz Society, supported by the Ernst-Bloch Society and the Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science.

The second part on November 9 and 10 included the symposium "Cybernetics and dialectics" with two presentations.

It was followed by the seminar "Blended learning and ethical formation".

After the symposium, the commemorative ceremony for the awarding of the "Heinz-von-Foerster" price for organization cybernetics took place.. Laureate 2007 was the Swiss scientist and university professor Dr. Hans A. Wüthrich, who is teaching at the University of the German Federal Armed Forces.



from l.t.r: Prof. Dr. Winter as laudator, president of the management German Association for Cybernetics, Hon.-Prof.Dr. Piotrowski, laureate Prof. Dr. Wüthrich, president of the management Curatorship for European Business Competence, Prof. Dr. Dr. Ortner
*Siegfried Piotrowski*

# Traditional Berliner November 2008
# November 21-22, 2008, Berlin

Colloquium Berliner November 2008 "60 Years of Cybernetics" and "Blended-Learning and Education in Ethics". Berlin, November 21-22, 2008, Clubhaus der Freien Universitaet, Goethestrasse 94, 14163 Berlin

1948 appeared Norbert Wiener's fundamental book *Cybernetics or Control and Communication in the Animal and the Machine*. At the same time Claude E. Shannon published his basic paper *A Mathematical Theory of Communication*. The Berliner November Colloquium of the German Society for Cybernetics had been organized in honor of these publications which were constitutive for the development of Cybernetics. In the focus is not only the history but in particular the influences of cybernetic thinking on present sciences. Apart from the key note lectures on Friday morning by Wolfgang Winter (Cybernetics and Ethics), Gerhard E. Ortner (Education Technology and Education in Ethics) and Uwe Lehnert (What means Cybernetics Today?) and after the meeting of the Institut fur Bildung und Medien des Gesellschaft fuer Paedagogik und Information on Saturday eight presenters will deal with this interesting topic. On Friday afternoon the German Society for Cybernetics and the Gesellschaft fuer Paedagogik und Information will award Robert Trappl, Vienna, the Wiener Schmidt Prize in honor of his merits for the development of Cybernetics.

# Systemic Activities in Latin America

*SEMINARS OF THE ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION GESI*
(www.gesi-online.com.ar)

A program of Seminars organized and offered by members of GESI, was given at the UNSAL University, Faculty of Juridical Sciences in Buenos Aires with very good reception of professionals and people interested in systemic subjects.

- The first one on "Sociality, nature and development of communication in human organizations" was given by Prof. Charles François from April to August 2008; notes and comments of the participants are already edited and in course of publication (available in Spanish).
- From September on, Seminars about "Food and Energy Crisis" are going on, as well as some sessions devoted to Hydric and Oceanic Resources in Argentina, including the ecological aspects.
- "Man-made catastrophes" is another subject of great interest for our Group of Study, and is being tackled mainly through significant latin-american cases.

*SYSTEMIC LATIN AMERICAN MEETINGS 2008*
Sept. 3, 4th Connessione "Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation"
ITBA (Technical Institute of Buenos Aires University ) and GESI

VIII Regional Congress of Students in Systems Engineering and Informatics (COREIS)
Universidad Nacional del Centro, Huancayo, Perú , 13-18 October

4th Brasilian Meeting on Systems
Centro Universitario de Franca, Brasil, 29-30 October
3rd. Meeting of ALAS (Latin American Systemic Association), México City, 6-8 November
http://afdwebserver.no-ip.biz/alassistemica/

*PARTICIPATION IN EMCSR 2008*, at the Vienna University, and at the Fuschl Conversations
Our members Inga. Mercedes Clusella from Instituto Galileo Galilei of Santiago del Estero, Argentina, and Dr. Enrique Herrscher presented their interesting contributions at the Meetings: Clusella,M.M. "Organizational changes in catching-up countries context" and Herrscher,E.:Systems body of knowledge: this is where communication and education meet" respectively.

*AWARD OF THE ST. GALLEN UNIVERSITY* to *CESDES,* at the Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia SJBosco

*NEW LATIN-AMERICAN SYSTEMIC INSTITUTION*
ELAPDIS, Latin American School of Systemic Thought and Design, was created by members of the Centro de Investigaciones en Sistemología Interpretativa of Los Andes University,Venezuela.
elapdis@gmail.com is the email to communicate with Dr. Hernán Lopez.Garay, coordinator.

# Journal of Systems Research and Behavioural Science
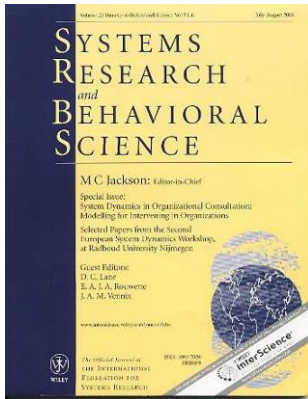
Systems Research and Behavioural Science is the official Journal of the IFSR. It publishes original articles on new theories, experimental research, and applications relating to all levels of living and non-living systems.

Its scope is comprehensive, dealing with systems approaches to: the redesign of organisational and societal structures; the management of administrative and business processes; problems of change management; the implementation of procedures to increase the quality of work and life; the resolution of clashes of norms and values; social cognitive processes; modelling; the introduction of new scientific results, etc. Manuscripts of a theoretical or empirical nature which have broad interdisciplinary implications not found in a journal devoted to a single discipline are especially welcome.

Further information including submission instructions for authors, can be found on Wiley Interscience at: http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/home .