

20 February 2016

Dear SDS Policy Council Colleagues and Friends,

I am pleased to forward two documents, responding to Roberta's request for an update on what we are now identifying as the 2ND ASIA PACIFIC REGION SYSTEM DYNAMICS CONFERENCE. I apologize for the lateness of this submission.

I was informed that brevity is the soul of virtue when it comes to such documents. Our "SUMMARY PROPOSAL/REPORT..." meets this criterion. My highly efficient and patient colleague, Ms. Yong Bee Choon, who is overall responsible for conference administration, prepared it. You may note a discrepancy between the dates given in the SDS Newsletter announcement – Feb. 20-23 – and those listed in the Summary Proposal/Report – Feb. 19-22. I regret the discrepancy, for which I am responsible. The dates listed in Bee Choon's summary proposal are the correct ones.

The, "Planning Notes" document, which I have been framing to think through the conference process in greater detail, violates the "brevity" criterion. It builds mostly upon planning documents that Roberta has kindly provided. I have taken the liberty of sharing it in the hope that some members may have time to look through it and share thoughts, though perhaps not in the Policy Council Meeting's time frame. I do so because, while Len and Nacho are experienced SD Society conference organizers, I am not. Thus, I will greatly welcome your suggestions. If they will include offers for help with conference organizing and program planning, so much the better.

Permit me to share a personal reflection since many of you are colleagues and friends of long standing. Your support will be particularly welcome because the primary mission of our "Residential College 4" (RC4) is not research – nor holding international conferences – but teaching, mentoring and administering a population of first and second-year undergraduates that will grow, over the summer, from our present population of about 350 students to more than 700. Hopefully, we will also add three or four new faculty members. Residential College 4 is an academic "start up" with all of the opportunities and challenges that term entails.

On the other hand, it is because of our undergraduate, graduate and even secondary school students, especially in RC4, but also in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Industrial and Systems Engineering, the Duke NUS Medical School, the Temasek Defense Systems Institute and the NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, that I view the opportunity this conference offers as exceptional. It will be an opportunity for some of Singapore's – and Asia's – future leaders to experience our field at a level that extends well beyond that which we can offer in our classes.

It is for this reason that I am so deeply grateful for the support of the Society in this endeavour and especially for Len and Nacho's partnership. To the degree that your other commitments and priorities permit, I will be grateful for your support and partnership as well. Moreover I hope that all of you will be able to join with us in Singapore, in February 2017.

With best wishes, John

SUMMARY PROPOSAL/REPORT TO THE POLICY COUNCIL
2nd ASIA PACIFIC REGION SYSTEM DYNAMICS CONFERENCE
19 FEBRUARY 2016 *

Detail	
Conference Name	2 nd Asia Pacific Region System Dynamics Conference.
Date	19-22 February 2017
Venue	National University of Singapore
Theme	Charting a path to a humane and sustainable future: Asia's Leadership Role
Programme team members	Len Malczynski, Ignacio Martinez-Moyano
Programme ideas	To be developed by the Program Committee, with the intention of appealing to a broad range of interests. As the theme suggests, emphasis will be given to public policy issues relating to sustainability, resilience and human well being of particular relevance to the region. Because of Residential College 4's sponsorship role, emphasis will be also be given to effective teaching of systems thinking and system dynamics modeling as part of general education curricula for upper level secondary school and for first and second year undergraduate students.
Local team	John Richardson (Chair), John Pastor Ansah (member), Huong Nguyen (member), Yong Bee Choon (secretariat support)
Planned activities	Sunday, 19 Feb 2017 – Graduate research colloquium Monday, 20 Feb 2017 – Day 1 Opening Ceremony & full-day conference [Two plenary speakers (one overseas & one local)] Tuesday, 21 Feb 2017 – Day 2 Full-day conference [Two plenary speakers (one overseas & one local)] Wednesday, 22 Feb 2017 – Day 3 Half-day workshop
Audience	Academics, Consultants, Students, Managers and Policy Makers
Goals/Purpose	Seeks to popularise and extend systems thinking and system dynamics modelling in the Asia-Pacific region. Facilitates interactions between practitioners from the region and around the world, introduce newcomers to the field, keep practitioners aware of current developments.
Funding	Have applied for a USD12K "Strengthening the Field" funding from the System Dynamics Society. Will be receiving a SGD 30,000 (about \$USD21,000) gift from John Richardson.

* The assistance of Yong Bee Choon, Senior Manager, Residential College Four in conference planning and the preparation this report is gratefully acknowledged.