



Pressing Issue: 2008 Conference Site Selection

Jim Lyneis - 06-6-28 at 04:37 PM

Documents describing the two proposals for 2008 are attached.

The proposal for Athens, Greece is based on a conference at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel (descriptions can be found at <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/athha>, photos at http://travel.yahoo.com/p-hotel-373930-action-imgsearch-intercontinental_athenaeum_athens-i). The Greece proposal consists of a summary spreadsheet with accompanying "Notes Athens 2008." The summary spreadsheet is not attached, as it is included in my proposal comparison spreadsheet (see below). Details of the hotel will be provided at the Policy Council Meeting.

The proposal for San Sebastian, Spain is based on a conference at a major conference center, with accommodation at various hotels in the city. Details of the conference venue, hotel options, and logistics for travel to San Sebastian are contained in the file "Spain Proposal 20060608."

The spreadsheet "JML Conference Proposal Comparison Europe 2008" provides a side-by-side comparison of the major points from the two proposals. This spreadsheet will serve as the basis for discussion of the two proposals after short presentations from each at the Policy Council meeting.

Jim Lyneis - 06-6-28 at 04:39 PM

Jim Lyneis - 06-6-28 at 04:41 PM

Bob Eberlein - 06-7-4 at 12:20 PM

Hi Jim,

thanks for the thorough review set up. A couple of questions on this.

First the Greek Proposal Includes \$30,000 for a banquet and the Spain Proposal does not. If I make the two the same and pull the banquet from the Greek Proposal does that not make the Greek proposal cheaper by about \$15,000?

Second the projected registration fees are very large. Is this the early nonmember registration fee?

Third, the Greek proposal reminds me a little bit of Palermo, which was a wonderful conference but had a lot of cost overrun problems. Do you (or does anyone) have any feel for how firm the projected costs are for the two sites?

Jim Lyneis - 06-7-5 at 03:32 PM

Bob,

In answer to your questions:

1. Yes, if we remove the banquet from Greek proposal, then the cost does fall approximately \$15,000 below Spain. I left the banquet in the comparison, but was planning to have the spreadsheet up at the PC meeting so we could see the consequences of changes like this.
2. Unless I made an error, this is projected to be the early member registration fee. See my Cost Trends memo for why these fees are so high.
3. I do not have a good feel for the firmness of projected costs -- this is an issue that Brian and team should respond to (if not on this discussion, certainly at the PC meeting).

1/29/2007

Jim

Jim Lyneis - 06-7-5 at 03:34 PM

We have just received a proposal from the Korean System Dynamics Society to host the 2008 conference in Seoul. That proposal is attached. You will find links to the hotel sites contained within the attached spreadsheet.

I have written back to the proposers concerning the high cost of meeting and sleeping rooms relative to past conferences and the other 2008 proposals. Korea may update their proposal in response. I will therefore wait a week or so before posting an updated comparison spreadsheet.

Jim

BrianDangerfield - 06-7-7 at 07:54 PM

The Athens data is on a 'worst case' basis.

Jim Lyneis - 06-7-14 at 04:29 PM

A word of caution in looking at the spreadsheets: please do not focus strictly on the bottom line registration fee and cost comparisons; as you will see in the spreadsheets, and we will discuss in the PC meeting, the proposals contain somewhat different program features (e.g., inclusion of a banquet or not) and assumptions (e.g., student room options and meal costs). While I have tried to make the proposal summaries as comparable as possible, there will be differences that we will want to discuss. As noted above, I will have the spreadsheets so we can test different assumptions on line.

Bob_Cavana - 06-7-19 at 03:18 AM

hi all,
the proposals for the 2008 & 2009 SD conference sites are all extremely impressive, and i wonder how the decision will be made.

i would like to suggest we take a more 'systemic' view, and perhaps allocate general geographic locations even up to 5 years in advance. we have discussed this at previous Policy Council meetings, but we dont seem to have changed the way we go about allocating the conference sites.

for example, the conferences have been held at the following locations over the last few years:

- 1999 - Wellington, NZ
- 2000 - Bergen, Norway [west Europe]
- 2001 - Atlanta, USA [eastern USA]
- 2002 - Palermo, Italy [west Europe]
- 2003 - New York, USA [eastern USA]
- 2004 - Oxford, UK [west Europe]
- 2005 - Boston, USA [eastern USA]
- 2006 - Nijmegen, The Netherlands [west Europe]
- 2007 - Boston, USA [eastern USA]

now we are currently considering the 2008 & 2009 conferences. if a conference site is selected in eastern USA or west Europe, then it at least 10 or 11 years since a international SD conference will be held outside Eastern USA or Western Europe!

now i have just gone to get my Globe just to confirm my understanding of the geography of the planet Earth - although USA and western Europe do occupy a small bit of the globe that is not covered in water, they only represent a fraction of the Earth (although i do appreciate they represent a large proportion of our SDS membership).

hence i would like to suggest we be more 'pro-active' in encouraging conferences outside eastern USA or west Europe.

1/29/2007

when will the decisions be made?

other comments please.

many thanks

Bob Cavana
VP (at large)
SDS

Jim Lyneis - 06-7-19 at 01:14 PM

Bob,

Thanks for reminding us of this important topic. If there is time during the PC meeting on Sunday, I would like to (re)start a discuss of this, especially in the context of the "cost trends" and attendance memo attached with my general report.

We may then want to either carry on the discussion via this web site, or assign a team to work on bringing forth some proposal for the winter meeting.

Jim
