

Report of the German Chapter to the Policy Council of the System Dynamics Society

June 30th, 2008

The past 12 months have been characterized by numerous activities aiming at the generation of further growth and an increased visibility of the German Chapter. Furthermore, the attention was turned on establishing routines and processes to ensure smooth and efficient operations after the extensive and laborious foundation phase.

As of today – i.e. 18 months after its foundation – the Chapter has 73 paying members (up from 45 in June 2007, cf. the attached list). In addition, about 80 people have registered for our newsletter. With about € 1,700 on the current account and the 2008 membership fees still outstanding, the growth in membership also translates into a solid financial situation.

In order to align the Chapter's General Meetings with the financial year, two General Meetings have been held since the Boston conference. The recent meeting was held during a 1½ day workshop event in Mannheim and, among other administrative aspects, included the election of a new Executive Board. The Chapter's Executive Board currently consists of:

- Switbert Miczka – President and Society Liaison
- Mathias Fischer – VP Finance
- Jürgen Strohhecker – VP SD in Research and Education
- Florian Kapmeier – VP Application of SD in Practice
- Markus Salge – VP Information Technology

Major events and activities during the last 12 months

- General Meeting, November 16th, 2007, Mannheim.
 - 17 members participated.
 - Tom Kuehner (PA Consulting Group, Frankfurt) gave a presentation on the application of system dynamics models in PA's project management business.
 - The Chapter commemorated Prof. Gert-Harald von Kortzfleisch who had passed away in October 2007. Having met Jay W. Forrester in 1968, von Kortzfleisch pioneered the application and dissemination of system dynamics in Germany.
 - The General Meeting decided to create the Gert-von-Kortzfleisch-Award for outstanding publications in system dynamics, including a prize money of € 500,-.
 - The General Meeting passed three motions regulating institutional memberships, and allowing the nomination of honorary members.

- Regional System Dynamics roundtables, January – April, 2008, Frankfurt, Munich, and Hannover.
 - Attracted in total more than 30 system dynamicists from the respective regions, both members and non-members.
- 2nd System Dynamics Workshop “40 Years System Dynamics in Germany”, June 9–10th, 2008, Mannheim.
 - The 1½ day workshop event combined
 - a 2.5-hour modelling workshop,
 - the opportunity to play the beer game,
 - talks by Erich Zahn, Peter Milling, and Kim Warren,
 - a practitioners' colloquium,
 - a PhD colloquium, and
 - an informal SD roundtable.
 - 50 participants – both members and non-members – from academia and practice met during this event, spurred lively discussions and exchanged experiences, ideas, and insight on all aspects of system dynamics and related fields.
 - The 1st Gert-von-Kortzfleisch-Award was awarded to Nadine Schieritz for her work on the combination of system dynamics with agent-based modelling.
- General Meeting, June 10th, 2008, Mannheim.
 - Regular annual administrative meeting.
 - Exoneration of the Executive Board.
 - Election of a new Executive Board.
- A poster presentation and a Chapter meeting are scheduled for the 26th International System Dynamics Conference in Athens.

Outlook and selected projects for 2008/09

- Joint workshop with the German OR Society on “Traffic and Logistics”, November 13–14, 2008, Frankfurt International Airport.
 - Call for Paper is available from www.systemdynamics.de.
 - Invited Guest Speaker: David C. Lane.
- Continuation of SD roundtables in different German cities.
- Activities to attract individual as well as institutional members.
- Transfer of the Chapter's website to a commercial server, development of additional website functionalities.
- 3rd System Dynamics Workshop and next General Meeting planned for May / June 2009.