

System Dynamics Society
To: Policy Council
From: Tim Haslett, VP Chapters

This year represents a low point in the reporting procedures from Chapters. All Chapters were contacted twice and sent a pro-forma to document chapter activities.

We have received five reports from the 17 Chapters. The Chapters that reported this year were Switzerland, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, and Economics. Last year reports were received from Germany, Italy, Latin America, Psychology, Switzerland and United Kingdom. This year the following Chapters failed to report: Latin America, Australasia, Brazil, China, Russia, Student, Egypt, Hellenic, Japan, Korea, and Pakistan.

This low response rate presents number of problems for the Policy Council.

1. The Council has no idea about the activities of the non-reporting Chapters. To some extent this problem is mitigated by the poster session that is held during the conference that informs the society as a whole about the activities of all Chapters. Judging from the 2008 reports and the 2009 reports, the Chapters constitute a very active element of the society. For example, the Swiss chapter held six meetings and four PhD roundtables during 2008-9. Many Chapters have 100 members. The fundamental question then is, "To what extent does the policy Council need to be informed of the activities of the Chapters?"
2. Clearly many of the Chapters did not regard reporting to the Council as an integral part of their activities. The issue then becomes finding mechanisms and structures to create stronger links between the individual Chapters in the Council.
3. There is not a strong carryover of chapter membership to Society membership, as many chapter members not being members of the Society and do not attend the conference. It may be that the new membership fee structure has changed this. It may also be that chapter membership represents a much lower level of commitment to, and interest in, the field than membership of the Society. However, converting chapter membership to Society membership and attendance at the annual conference would appear to be a high leverage activity in terms of boosting membership and finances for the Society.
4. The dilemma for the Council is that it is able to exert little control over the Chapters and any attempts to coerce them into conforming with reporting requirements is likely to be counterproductive. We need to provide structures that enhance the role of the Chapters within the society and to provide the Chapters with a higher profile.

There are number activities that may do this:

1. Requiring applications to hold the annual conference to be endorsed and supported by the relevant chapter.
2. Providing the opportunity for Chapters to edit a special edition of the SDR.
3. Providing a Chapters page on the Society website
4. Raising the profile and contribution of the Chapters at the annual conference
5. Providing greater representation on Council for Chapters possibly through the committee structure.

I wish to apologise for my absence this year but would welcome any contributions and suggestions that will improve the links between the Society and its Chapters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Haslett', written in a cursive style.

Tim Haslett

Chapter Report for the Swiss Chapter of the System Dynamics Society

By Stefan Groesser and Thomas Beck

1. Chapter Officers

Co-Presidents

- Stefan Grösser, University of St.Gallen,
Thomas Beck, Swiss Re

Vice President - Practitioner Workshops

- Dr. Justus Gallati, University of Applied Sciences Lucerne

Vice President - Academic Affairs

- Cécile Emery

Cashier

- Prof. Dr. Gianluca Colombo, Università della Svizzera Italiana

Financial Auditor

- Dr. Christian Flury, Flury&Giuliani GmbH

2. Chapter Details

Website: www.systemdynamics-swisschapter.ch

3. Written Report of the Swiss Chapter 2009

The Swiss Chapter consists of researchers, educators, consultants, and practitioners in the corporate and public sectors. Approximately 120 people currently receive our emails.

In late 2005, we introduced a membership fee whereas we granted a discount to members of the International System Dynamics Society. To date twenty persons have paid the membership fee for 2009.

4. Activities

4.1 Meetings (for each meeting please find the minutes and relevant presentation slides)

Chapter meetings at least four times a year. The number of participants in chapter meetings has been around ten. In chapter meetings, we usually combine a presentation about system dynamics in action with the discussion of organizational issues.

- **April 27 2009, ETH Zurich, 18.00 - 20.00** [[pdf](#)] [[presentation](#)] [[summary](#)]
- **January 19 2009, ETH Zurich, 18.00 - 20.00** [[pdf](#)] | [[Risk Model](#)]
[[Presentation of Tim Scheffmann - Part I](#)]
[[Presentation of Tim Scheffmann - Part II](#)]
- **October 20 2008, ETH Zurich, 18.00 - 20.00** [[pdf](#)]
- **July 22 2008, Athens** [[pdf](#)]
- **April 28 2008, ETH Zurich, 18.00 - 20.00** [[pdf1](#)] [[pdf2](#)] [[pdf3](#)]
- **January 28 2008, ETH Zurich, 17.00 - 19.00** [[pdf](#)]

4.2 PhD Round Tables

Ph.D. round table for students in the field of system dynamics and related disciplines every three to four months. The location of the round table meeting alternates between the University of St. Gallen, University of Lugano, and University of Berne. We have started to broadcast the PhD roundtables via video to other Universities in Switzerland but also interested people outside of the country.

4.3 Special Activities in 2009:

- Continuous update of our completion of our homepage www.systemdynamics-swisschapter.ch
- The presentation of the Swiss chapter at the special chapter and SIG poster session at the ISDC in Albuquerque
- Members of the Swiss Chapter have created several session reports for the ISDC. The reports can be found in the conference section of this newsletter.

Stefan Groesser and Thomas Beck

Chapter Report for Italian Chapter

By
Edoardo Mollona

Chapter Officers

President: Prof. Edoardo Mollona

Vice President: Stefano Armenia

Vice President: Nicola Bianchi

Vice President: Habib Sedehi

Treasurer: Nicola Bianchi

Secretary: Stefano Armenia

International relations: Habib Sedehi

Chapter Details

Website: <http://www.systemdynamics.it/>

Contact: Edoardo Mollona: emollona@cs.unibo.it

Stefano Armenia: armenia@cattid.uniroma1.it

Nicola Bianchi: bianchi@ge.cnr.it

Habib sedehi: habib.sedehi@uniroma1.it

No of members: approximately 100

Membership fee: ---

2009 Income: ---

2009 Account balance: ---

2008-2009 Activities

Activity 1: Seminars given by Prof Paal Davidsen (University of Bergen)

Place: University of Bologna

Date: 23 – 26 March, 2009.

Description: Prof Davidsen has been invited by prof. Mollona to give a number of lectures to the students of the University of Bologna but the lectures were open to members of the Italian Chapter of the Society.

Activity 2: Seminars given by Prof Paal Davidsen (University of Bergen)

Place: University of Bologna

Date: 15 – 16 April, 2009.

Description: Prof Davidsen has been invited by prof. Mollona to give a number of lectures to the students of the University of Bologna but the lectures were open to members of the Italian Chapter of the Society.

Activity 3: Restructuring of the chapter web site

Place: -----

Date: During 2008-2009

Description: A team of scholars based in Rome restructured the web site of the chapter and created a Forum where main issues of the chapter can be discussed.

Activity 4: Administration of electronic election to renovate the directory of the chapter.

Place: -----

Date: During 2008-2009

Description: Using the new interactive web site, the Chapter renovated its directory.

2010 Planned Activities

Activity 1: Meeting to be held in Rome.

Place: Rome

Date: Fall 2009

Contact: Edoardo Mollona (emollona@cs.unibo.it)

Description: We intend to organise an official meeting of the chapter in fall 2009 in Rome. The agenda includes a number of key decisions such as the definition of a membership fee.

Activity 2: Seminars given by Prof Paal Davidsen (University of Bergen)

Place: University of Bologna

Date: Between end of March and Mid May 2010.

Contact: Edoardo Mollona (emollona@cs.unibo.it)

Description: Given the enthusiastic reaction of our students, we intend to invite again Prof Davidsen to give a number of lectures to the students of the University of Bologna. Of course, the lectures will open to members of the Italian Chapter of the Society. In the same context, we intend to organise a round table with Prof. Davidsen.

Activity 3: Submission of a track proposal to the international conference of the European Academy of Management to be held in Rome in May 2010.

Place: Rome

Date: 19 – 22 May 2010

Contact: Edoardo Mollona (emollona@cs.unibo.it)

Description: We intend to put together a number of academicians that belong to the Italian chapter to sponsor a track in the EURAN conference that deals with computer simulation applied to strategy making and strategic planning.

Chapter Report 2009 for the German Chapter of the System Dynamics Society
(Deutsche Gesellschaft für System Dynamics e.V.)

By Switbert Miczka

Chapter Officers

President: Switbert Miczka

Vice President Finance: Mathias Fischer

Vice President SD in Education and Research: Jürgen Strohhecker

Vice President Practical Application of SD: Florian Kapmeier

Vice President IT: Markus Salge

Chapter Details

Website: <http://www.systemdynamics.de>

Contact: Switbert Miczka, miczka@systemdynamics.de

No of members: 97

Membership fee: € 25,- (€ 15,- for students)

2009 Income: € 1,428.86 as of 31 Dec 2008

2009 Account balance: € 3,346.72 as of 31 Dec 2008

2009 Activities (since last ISDC)

Activity 1: Four Regional Meetings / Roundtables

Place: Frankfurt and Munich

Date: 29 Oct 08 (FRA), 26 Nov 08 (MUC), 11 Feb 09 (FRA), 27 May 09 (MUC)

Description: Regional Meetings offering an easy point of contact for SD users and interested parties, combining a short presentation of a recently conducted SD study or project, and an informal part for networking

Activity 2: Conference “Traffic and Logistics“, jointly organised by the German Chapter and the German OR Society

Place: Frankfurt International Airport

Date: 13 & 14 Nov 2008

Description: A 1½ day day conference discussing applications of OR methods and SD in projects related to transportation and logistics. Focus on potential combinations of both approaches. Keynote speaker: David C. Lane, London School of Economics and Political Sciences

Activity 3: 3rd Annual System Dynamics Workshop of the German Chapter

Place: Stuttgart

Date: 25 & 26 June 2009

Description: The 1½ day event combined

- a 2.5-hour modelling practice,
- keynote by Andreas Größler,
- a practitioners' colloquium,
- a PhD colloquium, and
- an informal SD roundtable.

45 participants – both Chapter 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 2nd Gert-von-Kortzfleisch-Award was awarded to Florian Kapmeier for his work on managing learning alliances.

Activity 4: General Meeting of the German Chapter

Place: Stuttgart

Date: 26 June 2009

Description: Regular annual administrative meeting, report of the Chapter Officers, exoneration of the Officers for FY 2008.

2010 Planned Activities

Activity 1: Regional Meeting / Roundtable series

Place: Frankfurt, Munich, Berlin, further places tba

Date: please check www.systemdynamics.de

Contact: www.systemdynamics.de

Description: Regional Meetings offer an easy point of contact for SD users and interested parties, combining a short presentation of a recently conducted SD study or project, and an informal part for networking

Activity 2: 4th Annual System Dynamics Workshop of the German Chapter and General Meeting of the Chapter 2010

Place: tba

Date: June 2010

Contact: Jürgen Strohhecker, Florian Kapmeier

Description: Sequel of the successful workshop series started in 2007. A multifaceted event combining interactive workshop sessions such as modelling practices, talks, and colloquia. For further details and updates on the programme please check www.systemdynamics.de

Economics Chapter Report

By Kaoru Yamaguchi, President

Chapter Officers

President: Kaoru Yamaguchi, Japan

President Elect: Brian Dangerfield, UK

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Chapter Details

Website: www.systemdynamics.org/chapters/economics

Contact: kaoru3@muratopia.org (President's mail)
opavlov@WPI.EDU (Oleg V. Pavlov for mailing list)

No of members:

The chapter has about 100 subscribers on its mailing list.

Membership fee: No fees.

2009 Income: None

Chapter Report for UK Chapter

By Brian Dangerfield

Chapter Officers

President: Brian Dangerfield

Vice President: Christina Spencer (Membership)

Vice President: Kim Warren (Sponsorships)

Treasurer: Mike Kennedy

Secretary: Steffen Bayer

Chapter Details

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/uksystemdynamicschapter/>

Contact: Christina Spencer ([christina @strategydynamics.com](mailto:christina@strategydynamics.com))

No of members: About 350 on list; about 60-70 active attenders.

Membership fee: None

2009 Income: GBP6965 (year to 31 Jan 2009)

2009 Account balance: GBP9087

2009 Activities

Activity 1: This year we held our 11th Annual Gathering at London South Bank University. Co-hosted with the SD+ Study Group of the UK OR Society, it proved a great success (53 attendees). The theme was “*System Dynamics: the client perspective*”. The first afternoon consisted of presentations with clients there to offer their views on SD as a method of policy analysis. The organisations involved were the Refrigeration Corporation of Cleveland (Ohio), Bristol Water and the Ministry of Justice.

A buffet dinner followed in the evening. We held our 2nd PhD Colloquium on the following morning with a number of student poster presentations.

Place: London South Bank University

Date: 12-13 Feb 2009

Description: Annual Gathering

Activity 2 Regional Networking Meeting and talks on ‘Strategic Planning In the UK Construction Industry’

Place Lowry Centre, Salford Quays, Greater Manchester

Date 29 June 2009

Description Talks followed by networking over complimentary buffet and cash bar. Video & slides will be on Chapter website

2009 Activities

2010 Planned Activities

Activity 1: Annual Gathering

Place: London South Bank University

Date: 11-12 February 2010

Contact: Christina Spencer – as above

Description: Two-day event: Day 1 Talks and debate with an Environmental theme. Speakers: Nick Mabey; David Fisk; Dennis Sherwood. Award of Steer Davis Gleave Prize.

Day 2: PhD Colloquium; Award of Student Prize; UK Chapter Policy Council Meeting