

Chapter related information after the conference
Martin Schaffernicht – VP Chapters

During the PC Meeting, we have discussed the situation of some chapters that had not sent reports and I said I'd use the Posters Session and the Chapter Meetings to get in touch with them.

I am happy to announce that most Chapters were there with a poster and I discovered an enormous amount of energy and activity. Amongst all the chapters, I'd like to mention three: India, Korea and China.

- ***India.*** The India Chapter is new but very well organized around a consultant firm (which contributes resources) and focused on working with ONGs. There is a lot of potential in India and I'll try to stay in touch.
- ***Korea.*** The Korea Chapter does not have many members (around 30), but they meet 5-6 times per year, have their own journal, books and a school initiative.
- ***China.*** The China SD community is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. Just like the Korean colleagues, they have their own journal and books

A set of photographs can be downloaded from

<https://picasaweb.google.com/Martin.Schaffernicht/SDSChapterPosters>

In the Chapter Meetings, a lot of attention and time have been devoted to the “capacity development fund” and I thank our three Presidents for their active support. Even if I still have to get in touch with the Russian Chapter, I am now rather optimistic. We have created a LinkedIn group to have direct communication amongst all the Chapter Representatives.

After the conference, I've told the Chapter Representatives of the Egypt, Hellenic and Pakistan Chapters that under the current circumstances, the Society cannot consider them as Chapters (a copy of the letter comes as appendix), but that the Society encourages them to make the effort and come up with a renewed Chapter: they will have all the help we can mobilize. The Pakistan Representative has already started interacting with me: he wants to re-start and will ask for experienced dynamicists to go there and help training people. I'll stay in contact with him and report new developments.

I'm now looking for a AVP Chapters, with whom I'd like to continue creating a central structure that proves helpful for the Chapters and informative for the PC.

Appendix: the letter sent to the Egypt, Hellenic and Pakistan Chapters

Dear _____,

according to our information, the group of system dynamicists in your country has fallen below the critical threshold of 10 members “in good standing” in the Society. I have tried to reach you, but for some reason you did not send in a report. Also, your chapter was not present at the Washington conference, so I could not talk to you. We have also seen that your website’s information is very outdated.

In the Policy Council summer meeting, the PC has discussed this situation in depth: by the Society’s rules, a Chapter that fails to have the minimum number of members “in good standing” automatically ceases to be a chapter. We are in a delicate situation: at one side, we wish for Chapters to start, grow and stabilize, and we feel that telling you “you are not a chapter anymore” is not what we want to be telling you. On the other side, we believe we should play by the rules we have defined ourselves, and additionally a website that displays totally outdated pages does not help to create a good image of the Society.

Sadly, I must tell you that under the current conditions, the _____ group is not a chapter. However, we would very much like you to become a chapter again. This is entirely possible, as the recent development in Brazil shows. As soon as you can reunite at least ten members “in good standing”, renew your chapter constitution and hopefully set up at least one yearly activity (and also an updated website), you can send it to me and I would immediately move the recognition of the (renewed) Chapter in the PC.

Also, if there is anything we can do to help you, please contact me. I want you to know that the PC members are very concerned about this development and truly wish to be helpful.

You can reach me by mail at martin@utalca.cl or martin.schaffernicht@gmail.com; on Skype look for martin.schaffernicht if you want to talk directly.

I hope to hear from you, so that we can work out a way to reconstitute the chapter,

Martin Schaffernicht
VP Chapters