

29th International Conference of the System Dynamics Society 2011

**Washington, DC, USA
24-28 July 2011**

Volume 1 of 5

ISBN: 978-1-61839-229-9



System Dynamics Society
Milne Hall 300, Rockefeller College
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Editors:

James M. Lyneis



George P. Richardson

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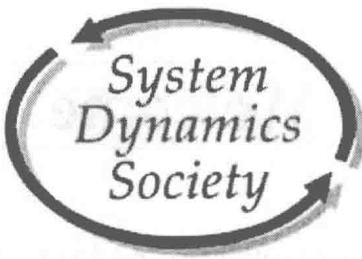
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Proceedings of the 29th International Conference

July 24-28, 2011
Washington, DC

Conference proceedings
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Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Hello! Welcome to the 29th International Conference of the System Dynamics Society. This year, the conference is located in Washington, DC, the District of Columbia. Officially declared on July 16, 1790, by the Congress of the United States to serve as the nation's capital, Washington, DC is centrally located between the North and South along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, on the eastern shores of the United States.

Again this year the program shows that the field of system dynamics is thriving. Conference participants come from more than 45 countries around the world. From the PhD Colloquium on Sunday, through the plenary, parallel and poster sessions Monday through Wednesday, and Thursday's workshops, you will be immersed in conversations and presentations reflecting the state of the art of the field.

This year's conference will benefit from its location in the Washington, DC area by including plenary and convened sessions that focus on applications and impact in governance in the United States and worldwide. Of special interest will be sessions on health dynamics and policy; conflict, defense, and security; sustainability, including energy and climate; diverse issues in public and corporate policy; and K-12 education. Our program schedule also includes exhibits, model assistance workshops, panel discussions, special sessions, topical roundtables, and Society business meetings.

To further increase your enjoyment of the conference, there will be time for social and professional interaction in a relaxed and fascinating setting, including an Informal Gathering on Sunday during and after registration, the Poster Symposium and Buffet on Monday, and the Conference Banquet on Tuesday. Although not included in your registration fee, local tours may be arranged through *Destination DC* via their website <http://washington.org>. These tours include visits to National Monuments, the Pentagon, the White House, and the Smithsonian Museums. The Travel and Tour Information link on the conference website provides additional information on what to see and do in the Metro DC area.

This year, 32 Thread Chairs, supported by a host of other volunteer reviewers, worked tirelessly to screen and comment on almost 400 submissions. In addition, several dozen volunteers worked many hours to ensure a successful conference. Without the commitment of these reliable volunteers our conference would be impossible. A special thanks goes to all who helped.

In addition to all our other sponsors and our conference hosts, Booz Allen Hamilton and Powersim Solutions, we are also very fortunate this year to have two conference partners, The Boeing Company and PA Consulting Group. We sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm and support of all our sponsors.

We know that you find the conference stimulating and rewarding. We ask that you bring to our attention anything that may help us to ensure the success of the current conference, as well as future ones. Thank you for attending!

On behalf of the hosts and conference committees, best wishes from,

Richard Phares, Imrana Umar, George Richardson, James Lyneis, Jack Homer and Roberta Spencer

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