

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Management, Engineering and Informatics: MEI 2007

In the Context of

The 11<sup>th</sup> World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics: WMSCI 2007

<http://iis-cyber.org/mei2007/>

**July 8-11, 2007, Orlando, Florida (USA)**

### Honorary Presidents of Past Conferences:

Bela Banathy, Stafford Beer, George Klir, Karl Pribram, Paul Jensen, Gheorghe Benga.

**Program Committee Chair:** C. Dale Zinn

**General Chair:** Nagib Callaos (WMSCI)

**Organizing Committee Co-Chairs:**

Jorge Baralt, Belkis Sánchez, Andrés Tremante, Jorge Molero

## CONFERENCE MAJOR THEMES AND AREAS

### Engineering and Management

- Management Engineering and Operations Research
- Engineering Management

### Management Science

- Strategic Management
- International Business Management
- Knowledge Management and Strategies
- Supply Chain Management
- Business Ethics
- Risk Management
- Project Management
- Innovation Management
- Human Resources Management
- Financial Management
- Marketing Management
- Organizational Behavior
- Organization Structure and Design
- Managing Change in Organizations
- Managerial Communications

### Informatics and Management

- Management of Information Technologies
- Management Support Systems and Industrial Informatics

### Engineering and Informatics

- Software and Information Systems Engineering
- Applications of Informatics in Science and Engineering

Details with regards to the Topics suggested for each area can be obtained from the conference web site.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Chair: C. Dale Zinn (USA)**

- Acharya, Sushil (United States)
- Antenucci, Jason P. (Australia)
- Babu, B. V. (India)
- Bemley, Jesse (United States)
- Brenner, Bernie (New Zealand)
- Bricker, Dennis L. (United States)
- Chambah, Majed (France)
- Chang, Ruay-Shiung (Tokelau)
- Cole, Robert E. (Japan)
- Dallimore, Chris J. (Australia)
- DePuy, Gail W. (United States)
- Doma, Salah (Egypt)
- Doyle, John Kevin (United States)
- Glushko, Eugene (United States)
- Haga, Hirohide (Japan)
- Heimann, David I. (United States)
- Hepdogan, Seyhun (United States)
- Hill, Raymond R. (United States)
- Hiremath, Chaitr S. (United States)
- Imberger, Jörg (Australia)
- Izworski, Andrzej (Poland)
- Jingchao, Chen (China)
- Keung, Fung Wai (Hong Kong)
- Khmelevsky, Youry (Fiji)
- Kopolyay, Tamas (Canada)
- Korthaus, Axel (Germany)
- Lefebvre, Vladimir (United States)
- Long, M. David (United States)
- Matsumiya, Tsuyoshi (Japan)
- Molchanov, Pavlo (Ukraine)
- Moraga, Reinaldo J. (United States)
- Naddeo, Alex (Italy)
- Nagabhushan, Tagdur (India)
- Ng, H. S. Raymond (Hong Kong)
- Odem, Peggy (United States)
- Paquin, Jean-Paul (Canada)
- Remondino, Marco (Italy)
- Romero, José R. (Australia)
- Rossi, Giuseppe (Italy)
- Shivaji, Narendra (Singapore)
- Sohn, Han-Suk (United States)
- Suess, Steven J. (United States)
- Tsauro, Woei-Jiunn (Taiwan)
- Tsiligaridis, John (United States)
- Velasquez, Guillermo (United States)
- Virmani, Sudhir (United States)
- Waage, Frenck (United States)
- Welfe, Wladyslaw (Poland)
- Whitehouse, Gary E. (United States)
- Zhou, Chi (United States)

## WAYS OF PARTICIPATION

To participate in MEI 2007 fill, please, the respective form at the conference web site (<http://www.iiis-cyber.org/wmsci2007/Website/ParticipationForm.asp?vc=12>).

Participation in the conference could be done by means of one or several of the following activities:

- The submission of a paper/abstract
- The organization of Invited Session(s)
- The organization of Focus Symposium
- The reviewing process
- The conference promotion
- Recommending scholars/researchers in order to have an active participation and/or submit the papers/abstracts.
- Panel Presentation
- Proposing Organizations/Institutes/Universities as Academic/Scientific Co-Sponsors.

## **Kinds of Participants**

Participation of both, researchers and practitioners is strongly encouraged. Papers/abstracts may be submitted on: **research** in science and engineering, **case studies** drawn on professional practice and consulting, and **position papers** based on large and rich experience gained through executive/managerial practices and decision-making. Hence, the Program Committee has been conformed according to the criteria given above.

## **Types of Submissions Accepted**

### **1. Papers/Abstracts**

- **Research** papers
  - a. in **science**
  - b. in **engineering**, including systems analysis, design, implementation, synthesis, deployment, maintenance, etc.
- **Review** papers
- **Case** studies
- **Position** papers
- **Reports**: technical reports, engineering reports, reports on a methodological application, etc.

### **2. Invited Sessions**

Data regarding invited session to be organized by the submitter (title of the invited session, name of the organizer, affiliation, titles of the papers accepted for the invited session, authors' names, etc.). More details could be found below or at the conference web site.

### **3. Panel Presentation, Workshop and/or Round Table Proposals.**

### **4. Focus Symposia** (which should include a minimum of 15 papers).

## **DEADLINES**

- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006:** Submission of brief abstract (100-400 words), extended abstracts (500-1500 words) or draft papers (2000-5000 words).
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006:** Invited Sessions proposals. Acceptation of invited session proposals will be done in about one week of its registration via the respective conference web form, and the final approval will be done after the registration of at least five papers in the respective session
- December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006:** Acceptance notifications.
- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007:** Submission of camera-ready papers: hard copies and electronic versions.

## THREE KINDS OF REVIEWING PROCESSES

Draft papers and abstracts will have three kinds of reviewing: double-blind, non-blind and participatory reviewing:

1. Each submission will be sent to at least three reviewers, randomly selected, from the Program Committee's members and from the additional reviewers, for its double-blind reviewing.
2. Draft papers and extended abstracts will also have non-blind, open reviewing by means of 1-3 reviewers suggested by the submitting authors. The author(s) of each submitted paper/abstract should nominate at least one or two reviewers (accordingly to the submission option selected), and can nominate a maximum of three reviewers for the non-blind review of their respective submitted paper/abstract.
3. Submissions will also be included in a Participative Per-to-Peer Reviewing (PPPR). Consequently, submissions will be posted, without previous screening, in the conference web site in a way that it could be accessed, reviewed, commented and evaluated by the authors who sent draft papers or abstracts in the same area or topic. Authors will get a login and a password in order to have this kind of access. Details related to the Participative Peer-to-Peer Reviewing (PPPR), as well as the reasoning supporting it can be found at <http://www.iis-cyber.org/wmsci2007/Website/Ptpr.asp?vc=12>

Acceptance of a submitted paper will be based on all kinds of reviewing, but the first two (double-blind and non-blind) will be necessary conditions for draft papers and extended abstracts.

The selection of the best 10%-20% papers, for their publication in the Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (JSCI), will also be done based on the three kinds of reviewing.

Several studies have shown the strength and the weaknesses of double-blind and non-blind methods of reviewing. Many editors and authors also addressed this issue, some of whom have concluded that the reviewing should be double blinded and some others reached the opposite conclusion. David Kaplan, a highly cited author for example, stated that to overcome the weaknesses of peer-reviewing and to fix it "Review of a manuscript would be solicited from colleagues by the authors. The first task of these reviewers would be to identify revisions that could be made to improve the manuscript. Second, the reviewers would be responsible for writing an evaluation of the revised work." (Kaplan D., 2005, "How to Fix Peer Review", *The Scientist*, Volume 19, Issue 1, Page 10, Jun. 6. Also in <http://www.scienceboard.org/community/perspectives.142.html>)

Since both of these reviewing methods are opposites without contradiction between them, both methods can be used in a way as to complement one another, getting their advantages and reducing their respective disadvantages. This is the aim of MEI 2007's Organizing Committee while choosing to combine both of them in the reviewing process of the papers that are submitted to the conference.

**A Multi-Methodological Approach for Reviewing Submissions sent to a Multi- and Inter-Disciplinary Conference**

Whereas the multi- and inter-disciplinary nature of MEI 2007 and the fact that there are different kinds of epistemological values, disciplinary rigors, reviewing standards and conference organizational models, the MEI 2007's Organizing Committee regarded as highly desirable to have different kinds of submissions to the conference with different methods of their respective reviewing. Accordingly, submissions of draft papers will be differentiated from abstracts' submissions. Each kind of submission will have as well two different reviewing methods. Consequently, authors will have the opportunity to choose the way of submitting their paper that best fit their disciplinary rigor and their organization requirements regarding the conference organizational model.

Accordingly, there will be four reviewing methods. These ones going from the most formal one, which is similar to journals' reviewing, to less formal methods followed by those who conceive the knowledge communication made through conferences as a more informal process. Consequently, authors will have different ways of making their submission, and these ways will be highly related to different conference organizational models followed by prestigious scholar societies or suggested by highly cited authors.

The 4 submission options that authors have are the following:

### **Submission of abstracts**

**A1.** Authors submitting **Extended Abstracts** (400-2000 words, not a full paper) should suggest at least one scholar, researcher or professional for the open, non-blind reviewing of his/her abstract. Each extended abstract will also be sent to at least 3 reviewers for its double-blind reviewing as well. Acceptance decisions will be based on both kinds of reviewing: Non-blind and double-blind ones. "The submission should contain a scholar [or a professional] exposition of ideas, techniques, and results, including motivation and a clear comparison with related work." (as it is described for submissions to be made to the Annual IEEE Symposia on Foundations of Computer Science: FOCS).

**A2.** Authors submitting **Brief Abstracts** (100-400 words, not a full paper and not more than 400 words) may suggest 1-3 scholars, researchers or professionals for open, non-blind reviewing of his/her abstract. Each brief abstract will also be sent to at least 3 reviewers for its double-blind reviewing as well. Acceptance decisions will be based on both kinds of reviewing: Non-blind and double-blind ones. The submission should be similar to the abstracts or introductions usually written at the beginning of a full paper, containing a scholarly or a professional exposition of ideas, techniques, and results, including motivation and a clear comparison with related work.

### **Submission of draft papers**

**P1.** To be reviewed according to **Kaplan's Method**, by which "Review of a manuscript would be solicited from colleagues by the authors". The first task of these reviewers would be to identify revisions that could be made to improve the manuscript. The second one is that reviewers would be responsible for writing an evaluation of the revised work. This assessment would be mostly concerned with the significance of the findings, and the reviewers would sign it. (Kaplan, "How to Fix Peer Review", *The Scientist*, Volume 19, Issue 1, Page 10, Jun. 6, 2005; this article can also be accessed at <http://www.scienceboard.net/community/perspectives.142.html>). Besides this non-blind reviewing, each submitted paper will be sent to at least 3 reviewers for its blind reviewing

as well. Acceptance decisions will be based on both kinds of reviewing: Non-blind and double blind ones.

**P2.** To be reviewed by a **Modified Kaplan's Method**, where the submission's author should suggest at least two scholars, researchers and/or professionals for the open, non-blind reviewing of his/her paper. Each paper will also be sent to at least 3 reviewers for its double-blind reviewing as well. Acceptance decisions will be based on both kinds of reviewing: Non-blind and double-blind ones.

Details on these four kinds of submissions, along with their respective reviewing methods and its supporting reasoning are given in the conference web site.

## Acceptance Policy

The acceptance policy which is usually applied to the submissions made to WMSCI, the symposia organized in its context, the collocated Conferences and other conferences organized by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics (IIS), is oriented by:

- A. The **majority rule**, when there is no agreement among the reviewers with regards to acceptance or non-acceptance, of a given submission.
- B. The non-acceptance of the submission when there is agreement among its reviewers for not accepting it.
- C. Acceptance of the paper when in doubt (a draw or a tie among the opinions of the reviewers, for example).

The reasoning that is supporting this acceptance policy is based on very well established facts:

- There usually is a low level agreement among reviewers
- A significant probability of refusing high quality papers when the acceptance policy is oriented in such a way as to just accept those papers with no disagreement for their respective acceptance.
- The possible plagiarism (of some non-ethical reviewer) of the content of non-accepted papers.

Details regarding the reasoning supporting this acceptance policy are given in the conference web site.

Submitted papers/abstracts will be sent to reviewers. The best 10% of the papers will also be published in the Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (JSCI). Acceptance decisions regarding papers presentation at the conference, and their respective inclusion in the conference's proceedings, will be based on their content review and/or on the respective author's CV. Invited papers will not be reviewed and their acceptance decision will be based on the topic and the respective author's CV. Some of these invited papers, if chosen by the session chair as the best paper of the session, might also be published by JSCI Journal, because the 30% of sessions best papers will also be published in the journal. All accepted papers, which should not exceed six single-spaced typed pages, will be published by means of paper and electronic proceedings.

## **Reviewing papers submitted to invited session organizers**

Organizers of invited sessions are autonomous with regards to the reviewing method to be used in the reviewing process of the papers to be submitted to their respective sessions. They can use any of the methods described above, or some combination of them.

In some cases, like it is the case of Invited Papers, the CVs of the authors will also support the decision regarding the acceptance, or non-acceptance, of the respective paper.

Organizers of the best invited sessions or focus symposia will co-edit the respective proceedings volume, the CD version of the proceedings and might be invited to be invited editors or co/editors of the JSCI Journal issue where their session or symposia papers will be published. Multiple author books, or JSCI journal issues, might be published by IIS, based on the best-invited sessions, the best focus symposia or the best mini-conferences, and the topic of the papers.

## **Reviewers not meeting the reviewing deadline**

If the reviewers selected for reviewing a given paper/abstract do not make their respective reviews before the papers/abstracts acceptance deadline, the selection committee may inform the respective author about this fact.

## **Reviewing of papers and abstract other than research full papers**

The reviewing process of abstracts, case studies, position papers, reports, white papers, panel presentations and round table proposals will be based on the relevance of the topic, its potential for interdisciplinary communications, its educational value and/or its analogical thinking potential.

## **Papers to be included in the conference proceedings**

Accepted papers that have at least one of their authors with a confirmed registration status in the conference, will be included in both versions of the conference proceedings (hardcopy and CD). Papers received after the respective deadline may be included in the post-conference proceedings volume. Any error that results in the non-inclusion of a paper that should have been included in the proceedings will be corrected including such a paper in the post-conference proceedings volume.

## **Paper to be included, later, in the Journal JSCI**

Each accepted paper or presentation is candidate for being a best paper of its respective session and, consequently, it is candidate for a second reviewing process to be made by the reviewers of the Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (JSCI), for its possible inclusion among the best 10%-20% papers presented at the conference which will be selected and published in the JSCI, after doing possible modifications (in content/format) and extensions as to adequate them to a journal publication.

## **SUBMISSION OF DRAFT PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS**

Abstracts or draft papers should be submitted taking into account the following format:

1. Each submission should be related to at least one of the major themes, or the special symposia, given above.
2. Each submission should have a title.
3. Brief abstracts should have 100 to 400 words, extended abstracts should have 400 to 2000 words and draft papers should have 2000 to 5000 words, in English.
4. Author(s) with names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses should be included.
5. Each author making a submission should necessarily suggest at least one or two (accordingly to the submission option selected) and a maximum of three reviewers for the open review of the submitted extended abstract or paper draft, according to the acceptance policy stated above.

Abstracts or draft papers should be sent via the conference web site (<http://www.iiis-cyber.org/wmsci2007/Submission/Index.asp?vc=12>), filling the respective form and uploading the respective paper or abstract. If the conference web site is not accessible for you, you can also make your submission by e-mail, attaching it to the following e-mail address: [mei2007@iiis-info-cyber.org](mailto:mei2007@iiis-info-cyber.org)

## CONFERENCE FEES

The conference fees will be US\$ 420 before your Camera Ready deadline and US\$ 470 after your Camera Ready deadline. Additional \$50 applies for non-members of IIIS.

Full-time students at academic institutions will have a discount of 30%. To qualify for the discounted fee, students must provide, via fax or postal mail, a signed letter on letterhead of their university or institution verifying they are full-time students and a copy of their valid Student ID card. Full-time students that register at the conference must have both forms of verification with them when they arrive at the registration desk.

Authors of papers accepted for their respective presentation at MEI 2007 conference, or any of the symposia organized in its context or any of the collocated conferences, may apply for a complimentary, free membership at <http://www.iiis-cyber.org/wmsci2007/Website/IIISMembers.asp?vc=12>, after getting the acceptance e-mail related to the presentation of their paper and before making their registration in the conference, so they can register with the reduced fee

Each registration fee entitles publication and presentation of one paper of up to 6 pages. For each additional paper (up to 6 pages) by the same author that has registered, there is a charge equivalent to the 50% of the registration fee. The additional paper(s) must be presented by the registered author. If two or more authors of the same paper attend the Conference, each one of them must pay his/her respective full registration fee.

There is a limit of 6 pages for each paper in the Proceedings. At most 2 additional pages can be included, as long as the registered author pays the fee of US\$ 75.00 per extra page.

This fee will include exclusively:

- A CD-ROM version of the proceedings
- One volume of the hard copy version of the conference proceedings.



- Coffee breaks
- Welcome Reception

Other expenses must be afforded/provided by the participants. The registration fee does not include any post-conference services. There will be additional shipping and handling costs for those registered authors who, for unforeseen reasons, could not go to the conference. Any post-conference administrative requirements will be charged \$20 per staff hour required to elaborate such a requirement, with a minimum of \$10. Post-conference requirements will have their own deadline, which in no case will be more than three months, after the last day of the conference.

## **INVITED SESSIONS**

**Based on past conferences experience, we suggest the following steps in order to organize an invited session:**

- 1) Identify a special topic in the scope of MEI 2007, and the invited session title.
- 2) Fill the invited session organization form, provided in the conference web page <http://iiis-cyber.org/wmsci2007/invitedsession/ISOrganization.asp?vc=12>. If you don't have access to the web, please, contact the MEI 2007 Secretariat to the following e-mail: [mei2007@iiis-info-cyber.org](mailto:mei2007@iiis-info-cyber.org)
- 3) If the identified topic is suitable, the General Chair will accept the proposal, and you will receive an acceptance by e-mail, in a few days. This acceptance is not a final approval of the proposed session, but a pre-approval. The final approval will depend on identifying at least five papers for the proposed session, to be presented at the conference, and informing, at least, about their titles. With this acceptance: a) the proposed session will be included in the conference web page as well as its organizer's and chair's names, and b) its organizer will be able to announce his/her invited session in the context of MEI 2007, by any media that he/she thinks appropriate, such as: Web page, hard-copy call for papers, call for papers attached to e-mails, etc. The invited session organizer has the responsibility of his or her session content.
- 4) Contact researchers and/or practitioners in your field to see if they can contribute a paper to your proposed session and attend at MEI 2007.
- 5) Collect the abstracts or the draft papers from each prospective participant.
- 6) As soon as you have 5 reviewed and accepted papers, you will complete the form regarding the invited session papers, provided in the conference web page <http://iiis-cyber.org/wmsci2007/invitedsession/organizer.asp?vc=12>
- 7) Step 6 will take your invited session to the status of an approved one if the papers fulfill all the requirements (i.e. quality). All the approved invited sessions will be included in the MEI 2007 conference program.
- 8) No author, including the organizer, can present more than two papers in the invited session. A scholar/researcher can co-author more papers, but he, or she, cannot present more than two papers in the same invited session.

**Invited sessions and symposia organizers with the best performance will be co-editors of the proceedings volume where their session or symposia paper were included.**

**Chairs of invited sessions will select the best paper presented at their session. Sessions' best papers will be reviewed by reviewers of the Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics, and Informatics (JSCI) in order to select the best 30% of them for their respective publications in the Journal.**

**Best invited sessions and symposia organizers are candidates for invited editors or co-editors of the JSCI Journal special issue related to their field of research interest.**

### **Invited Session Organizer Role**

An invited session organizer has a similar role to the invited editor in a journal, i.e. he or she is invited to identify and look for high quality papers, to review the papers of his, or her, session, to select the reviewers that will help him, or her, and to decide which papers he/she wants to be presented at respective invited session.

The invitation is an academic, not a financial one, because, unfortunately, we have no financial sponsor and the conference should self-finance itself. Consequently, we cannot make any financial commitment.

In this way we are trying to give a first step in re-engineering the process of conference organization: to move decisions to the right people, to those interfacing with the conference users, i.e. the authors. Our experience in the last 10 events we organized showed us that the invited organizers help a lot into achieving higher quality levels. So, an invited session organizer can dedicate his/her time and efforts to improve the papers quality in the research area of his/her interest and MEI 2007 Organizing Committee will provide him/her with the place, the logistics, the proceedings, the intellectual and the physical context, etc. All that the invited session organizer has to worry about is the quality of the papers to be presented in her/his session(s).

Every session organizer will chair his/her session(s), and will be a member of MEI 2007 Program Committee and might be one of the co-editors of one volume of the hard copy and the CD version of the proceedings, if his/her session(s) is(are) among the largest invited session(s) published in the respective volume. Depending on the quality and quantity of the papers of his/her session(s), as well as on the scope of the possible interested audience, IIS may ask him/her, to edit, or co-edit, a multiple authors book to be published.

An invited Session Organizer gets in charge of the reviewing process of her/his invited session papers (directly and/or by means of a Focal Program Committee she/he selects for her/his session), and she/he can make her/his own timetable, as long as the camera-ready papers are ready for the respective deadline, and she/he informs us about the initial set of accepted papers (at least 5 titles and their respective authors and e-mails) by the announced respective deadline. The invited session organizer has the autonomy required as to be the responsible for the quality of the papers to be presented in his, or her, session.

The Invited Session organizer will chair his/her session. While chairing it, she/he will determine oral presentation time according to the number of participants physically present. Usually 2-2:30 hours are allocated for each session containing an average of 5 papers, with a maximum of 6. Sometimes we include 7 papers in a session because statistically 10-15% of the registered persons don't show up. Then, when we allocate 7 papers, we are expecting a maximum of 6 oral presentations. When an Invited Session has more than 7 papers with

their respective 7 registered participants, we allocate them into two time blocks of 2-2:30 hours for each block. When an Invited Session has more than 14 papers (and their respective registered participants), we allocate the presentation in three time blocks of 2-2:30 hours each block, and so on.

An invited session organizer can organize and chair several invited sessions in the same topic and with the same title, or she/he can organize several sessions in different topics and with different titles.

If an Invited Session Organizer has an unforeseen hindrance in the last moment, and cannot be physically present in the conference, she/he will advise us about the author (of the session) that can chair her/his session, and the invited session organizer can still be a co-editor of the proceedings and/or be selected to co-edit a multiple authors book based fundamentally on the papers of her/his session, as long as the requirements given above are fulfilled.

## **AUDIOVISUAL EQUIPMENT**

The audiovisual equipment provided for most meetings will be a screen, an overhead projector, LCD Projector, and a laptop. Any other equipment, if needed, will have to be supplied by the presenter.

## **CONFERENCE CONTACTS**

Phone: +58 (212) 272-9094

Fax: + (407) 816-4909

Conference Secretariat

[mei2007@iis-info-cyber.org](mailto:mei2007@iis-info-cyber.org)

More details can be found at the Conference web page: <http://iis-cyber.org/mei2007/>. Answers to specific questions can also be requested by e-mail.