INTERSymp-2007
19th International Conference on Systems Research, Informatics and Cybernetics

Announcing
Special Focus Symposium on
Analysis, Assessment and Forecasting of Consequences, Ramifications and Effects of Human Decisions and Human Actions

Chair:
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Canada

This Special Focus Symposium will be part of the 19th International Conference on Systems Research, Informatics and Cybernetics and one of the main Symposium of the 27th Annual Meeting of the International Institute for Advanced Studies (IIAS) to be held July 30 - August 4, 2007 in the MLG-Building at Hardstrasse 2, in Baden-Baden, Germany. One of the main objectives of this Symposium is to develop a framework, research methodology and intelligent systems tools that would allow us to systematically analyze, assess and forecast short-term and long-term (local and global) effects, implications, consequences and ramification of various socio-political, economic, environmental and military actions and decisions.

In the past and especially in recent history we have witnessed many politicians and those in power who make important political and military decisions and actions without any deep understanding and consideration of their potential risks, and their wider long-range implications and consequences (e.g. invasion and occupation of Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon). Many such reckless actions and ill-conceived decisions have had catastrophic consequences and dire ramifications not only for those against whom they were directed but also for those who have initiated and perpetrated them. Furthermore, many innocent bystanders and those not directly involved in the conflicts have been negatively affected and harmed by these actions. The unintended consequences and unforeseen ramifications of such actions have had a negative impact on our lives and lingering demoralizing and polarizing effects on our society. They gained high potential and the capacity to radically change, re-shape and profoundly influence the future evolution of the whole world and even imperil the very existence of our civilization.

In order to avoid and lessen the catastrophic consequences and ramifications of such ill-conceived and ill-advised decisions and reckless actions, a new corrective strategy is needed to help reverse the disastrous policies of the past that led to the implementation of such ill-fated actions. This new corrective strategy, based on the rational analysis and on the foresight of possible consequences, could help us contain and mitigate the damage already done, to prevent a tragedy of unfolding humanitarian crises and to advance a peaceful, just and humane solution for all concerned.
Our Symposium will provide a forum for discussion of the above outlined issues in an effort to find out what we can learn from the lessons of the past, and what we can do to correctly analyze, assess and foresee the consequences and ramification of our actions and decisions well before they are implemented and have had a chance to cause irreversible damage. By examining erroneous human actions and decisions that have led in the past to disastrous consequences, we shall be hopefully able to learn from the relevant lessons of history not to repeat the very same mistakes over and over again in the future. This should allow us in the future to select only those decisions and actions that would produce the most positive consequences and benefits for all concerned, and help us build a just, peaceful, prosperous and compassionate world.

The Symposium invites presentations that deal with the analysis, assessment and prognostication of effects, consequences and ramifications of human actions and human decisions. In particular, papers are solicited that will help to detect, identify, articulate, formally represent and intelligently examine consequences and potential ramifications of various social, political, economic, military and environmental decisions and actions in diverse real-life situations of the present day world. Especially welcome are papers that will propose innovative methodological tools, concepts, models, techniques and approaches through which such an analysis can be accomplished.

Topics of the Symposium

This Symposium may include but is not limited to the following topics:

- Detection, Identification & Articulation of Consequences/Ramifications of Human Actions
- Intelligent Analysis of Consequences and Ramifications of Human Actions and Decisions
- Anticipation and Understanding the Consequences and Ramifications of Actions
- Classifying, Qualifying and Quantifying Actions and Their Consequences
- Emergence and Evolution of Consequence(s)
- Human Action and Reaction vs. Human Action and Human Response
- Relationship of Human Action and Its Consequences and Ramifications
- Logic of Human Actions and Their Consequences and Ramifications
- Formal Representation of Human Decisions and Human Actions
- Formal Representation of Consequences and Ramifications of Actions and Decisions
- Options for Conflict Resolution and Their Consequences and Ramifications
- Societal, Political, Cultural, Economic Impact and Consequences of Actions and Decisions
- Local vs. Global Impact/Consequences/Ramifications of Human Actions and Decisions
- Consequences and Ramifications of Sanctions and Blockades
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Short-Range & Long-Range Consequences
- Mapping Human Actions and Projecting Their Consequences and Ramifications
- Mapping the Consequences and Ramifications of Socio-Political Actions and Decisions
- Graphical Representation of Human Actions and Their Consequences / Ramifications
- Forecasting & Prognosticating of Consequences/Ramifications of Human Actions/Decisions
- Methodology of Intelligent Analysis of Consequences and Ramifications of Human Actions
- The Law of Unintended Consequences and Ramifications of Human Actions and Decisions
- Intra-national & International Consequences and Ramifications of Political / Military Actions
- Synergistic and Cumulative Impact of Consequences of Human Actions and Decisions
- The Use of Consequence(s) as Feedback Information for Guiding Corrective Action(s)
- Risk Analysis of Potential Consequences and Ramifications
Call for Papers
Papers within the scope of the focus symposium are welcome. Abstracts of approximately 200 words should be submitted for evaluation. All proposals will be judged based on scholarly quality, originality and potential for further discourse. Papers must be written in English.

Abstracts may be submitted by e-mail (Microsoft Word preferred), or by mail by March 30, 2007 to:
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Review Process and Conference Proceedings:
All submitted papers and abstracts will be peer reviewed. Final papers should not exceed 5 single-spaced typed pages. Conference Proceedings will be published and selected papers may be published in book format.

The Paper Submission Guidelines, the Copyright Transfer Form, Conference Registration Form and other relevant information about the Conference are available at:
http://www.iias.edu

Important Dates
- March 30, 2007 Abstract due
- April 9, 2007 Notification of Acceptance
- May 9, 2007 Final paper due