

# Report of the second General Assembly of the International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences



Vienna (Austria) - **Wien (Österreich)**  
Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence OFAI  
**Österreichisches Forschungsinstitut für Artificial Intelligence**  
inner yard of the Shottenhof building (Freyung 6, 1010 Wien), 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, door 7,  
**Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2014, 16:00-18:00**

Dear Friends of the Academy,

1. First of all thanks for the great convivial welcome from our President **Robert Trappl** in his Institute.  
**Cheers!**

2. According to the proposal agenda,

**Robert** began with the determination of the presence, the powers of representation and the quorum.

- 12 Academicians attended: Ockie BOSCH (Australia), Pierre BRICAGE (France), Gerhard CHROUST (Austria), Jifa GU (P.R. of China), Wolfgang HOFKIRCHNER (Austria), Matjaz MULEJ (Slovenia), Yoshiteru NAKAMORI (Japan), Francisco PARRA-LUNA (Spain), Robert TRAPPL (Austria), Stuart UMPLEBY (U.S.A.), Jennifer WILBY (U.K.), Rainer E. ZIMMERMANN (Germany).

- 10 were excused but represented: Antonio CASSELLES-MONCHO (Spain), Guangya CHEN (P.R. of China), Charles FRANÇOIS (Argentina), Ranulph GLANVILLE (U.S.A.), Enrique HERRSCHER (Argentina), Laurence D. RICHARDS (U.S.A.), Bernard SCOTT (U.S.A.), Robert VALLÉE (FRANCE), Shouyang WANG (P.R. of China), Jiuping XU (P.R. of China). Thanks to all of them. And we all hope Ranulph's health is going in a better way.

So 22 voting authorities for 32 Academicians (Ernst Von GLASERFELD †), more than 2/3 of the authorities (quorum).

Gary METCALF, President of the IFSR, was attending as observer but with no vote.

The 2 new Academicians who have just been appointed, Hanfu CHEN and Jian CHEN (P.R. of China), were not participants for the voting process.

3. Then Robert resumed with a nice presentation the report of his 2012-2014 term as President (Please see the file: [http://web.univ-pau.fr/~bricage/reports/IASCYS2014\\_GAreport.pdf](http://web.univ-pau.fr/~bricage/reports/IASCYS2014_GAreport.pdf) )

4. Our Vice-President **Matjaz Mulej** used also a presentation to talk about his leading effort to develop with Bob Dyck the topic on "Social Responsibility" through the IRDO and the Academy.

These past 4 years the Academy has organized workshops about that topic during meetings of the European Union for Systemics (EUS-UES), the European Meetings on Cybernetics and Systems Research (EMCSR) and the World Conference on Complex Systems (WCCS). Please see the attached file about the workshops and sponsoring activities of the Academy ([WorldMapIASCYS2014.png](#)).

5. **Rainer E. Zimmermann**, who is in charge of the continuation of the Charles François' Encyclopedia presented us the job he has begun, to complete and improve the 2 volumes book.

*"Rainer reports that the exchange of the two volumes of the encyclopaedia by Charles Francois has been performed with the help of Silvia Zweifel who kindly transported the book to Vienna. The two volumes belong now to the Bertalanffy centre. Presently they are in Rainer's possession who is studying them in detail whilst he is in Vienna during this summer term having his sabbatical.*

*The state of legal discussion in terms of US copyright law as to the utilization of Michael Lissack's online encyclopaedia (ISCE library) is still somewhat unclear, and so is the explicit co-operations as planned between Michael and the Bertalanffy centre. This shall be cleared up soon.*

*Remark inserted after the assembly: During the Linz meeting, there was no occasion to discuss this in detail. A clarifying answer of Michael's is still to be expected. What is clear however, is that the online library provided by Michael works similar to a classical reference library which a limited number of users can utilize for a limited time. Rainer will keep the iascys informed."*

6. After the full agreement of this 4 years term 2010-2014 (since the establishment of the Academy), Robert proposed the Academicians' assembly the reelection of the past Executive Committee for a next 4 years term (2014-2018).

The present E.C. excepted, not anyone else was candidate.

The E.C., with Robert as President, Jifa, Matjaz and Ranulph as Vice-Presidents and Pierre Bricage as Secretary General, was unanimously reelected with more than the quorum.

7. A discussion took place about the activities of the Academy for the 2014-2016 period.

*"We need to enforce the amount of Academicians and the prestige of the Academy"* Robert said.

**Jifa Gu** agreed and said *"We need to appoint high ranked top level scientists"*.

*"How can we do?"* **Gary Metcalf** talk about the IFSR point of view.

8. What research programme for the Academy?

How to build a framework curriculum and an international network of Academic, and non-academic, research and training, structures to develop a worldwide consciousness of the systemic essence of our world?

**Ockie Bosch** presented his **UNESCO Research Lab as part of the Academy Network**

*As Vice-President of the ISSS, Professor Ockie Bosch is leading a worldwide project on promoting and enhancing systems education. The University of Adelaide has established an **ELLAB (EVOLUTIONARY LEARNING LABORATORY)** for **Systems Education** in undergraduate and postgraduate courses being offered in Adelaide and Singapore (both a compulsory course in the B. Commerce and the Adelaide MBA). Several Universities around the world are currently being invited to establish such **ELLABS** and to share their learnings, successes in instilling the graduate attributes that industry wants, and failures,... on a global knowledge sharing Hub. The establishment of the ELLabs and the sharing of ideas are currently dependent on face-to-face meetings, however a new web-based package, called "Think2Impact" ([www.think2impact.org](http://www.think2impact.org)) will soon be ready that will allow universities and other educational institutions from around the globe to become part of the Global **ELLAB**, without having to rely only on face-to-face meetings to share lessons learned with each other. Ockie Bosch suggested that this project be carried out under the wings of the IASCYS and be supported by the Academicians in getting universities (programs and courses) to sign up for participating in this important project.*

**Stuart Umpleby** pointed to "The Wandwaver Solution" (WS).

*Today's Universities are, in some respects, very successful and, in other ones, a failure. The WS is a proposal of an unbudgeted plan for revolutionary change in the University and as an instrument of higher education around the world (<http://www.gmu.edu/depts/t-iasis/wandwaver/wandw.htm>). While the change is revolutionary in its scope, it can be achieved through well-defined, well-tested evolutionary processes, which minimize the costs of transformation while still carrying out essential functions. Most existing educational programs will continue to exist, but their practices and administration may change. One major new college will be created, called the Horizons College. All professional schools will be aggregated under a single Professional College. The traditional "university college" will be the University College, largely as before, but practices may change.*

**Francisco Parra-luna** presented a case of the usefulness of complementary research strategies.

*An example about the important role that Systems Theory played in Spain during the last decade is given with the discovery by a multidisciplinary team (researchers of several universities, members of the **SESGE**) of the famous "place of la Mancha" mentioned in the novel of Don Quixote. A place that during four centuries has been a big mystery and much of cervantists and specialized colleagues in the world arrived to the conclusion that it was not possible to find it. But due to the application of some systemic principles (globality of intervening variables, their classification, interaction, environment in an open/closed system,.....)*

*the team discovered the epistemological power of systemic approaches to solve such a complex problem. We could show that behind the apparent anarchical literature of the novel, there was a description of the “place of la Mancha” who’s name Cervantes did not want to remember, and, surprisingly, that it was susceptible of a mathematical treatment. Therefore, today it can be said with a sufficient degree of security that the famous “place of la Mancha in the novel Don Quixote is the town of Villanueva de los Infantes, in the province of Ciudad Real, in the central part of Spain (La Mancha).<sup>1</sup>*

**Stuart** argued for the 2014 ACS<sup>2</sup> meeting and **Jennifer Wilby** (University of Hull) for the 2014 ISSS<sup>3</sup> one both to be sponsored by the Academy. We agree (see [IASCYSSponsoring2014.png](#)). They can use our logo and we have sent their flyer to all academicians.

*So, some words about the Centre for Systems Studies at the University of Hull.*

*The Centre for Systems Studies (CSS) in the Business School at the University of Hull (UK) has been at the forefront of international systems research and practice for over 20 years. At any one time, between 30 and 40 PhD students were working. Until recently, all successful students have graduated with a PhD in Management. The CSS has now received approval from the University to offer a PhD in Systems Science, and very few universities are using this title.<sup>4</sup>*

**Rainer E. Zimmermann** is also in charge of a next **Master of Systems Science** which Model<sup>5</sup> has been adopted according to the München University of Technology cursus.

Excepted those who had unfortunately to leave, the discussion continued informally and convivially during the emcsr gala dinner. A great EMCSR... thanks to **Wolfgang Hofkirchner**, a great management job!

Thank you so much to all of you that have been greatly concerned for the development of our Academy.

Yours sincerely

The members of the E.C. who attended in Vienna  
Robert Trappl [Robert.Trappl@ofai.at](mailto:Robert.Trappl@ofai.at)  
Pierre Bricage [pierre.bricage@univ-pau.fr](mailto:pierre.bricage@univ-pau.fr)  
Jifa Gu [jfgu@amss.ac.cn](mailto:jfgu@amss.ac.cn)  
Matjaz Mulej [mulej@uni-mb.si](mailto:mulej@uni-mb.si)

<http://iascys.org>

---

1 Caselles, A., Parra-Luna F. and Pla R. (2009) “The kinematics of don Quixote and the identity of the place in la Mancha: a systemic approach, *Revista internacional de Sistemas*, **SESGE**, vol. 16.

**SESGE** Sociedad Española de Sistemas Generales <http://www.uv.es/pla/SESGE>

2 <http://www.asc-cybernetics.org>

3 <http://iss.org/world/index.php>

4 Details of the PhD program at <http://www2.hull.ac.uk/hubs/research-degrees/mphil-phd.aspx>  
accreditation: <http://www2.hull.ac.uk/hubs/about/accreditation.aspx>

5 Attached file [MOSS.pdf](#)