

Kerry Lunney



Candidate for President-Elect

Vision

Being a volunteer for over 20 years has provided me great insight into INCOSE – the organisation, the systems influencer, the educator, and, the front runner in “all things systems”. We have advanced the knowledge of Systems and at the same time addressed unique challenges through various means in our demanding Age of Innovation and Globalisation. INCOSE has invested much over its 27 years built on the durable foundations of our simple but powerful vision of “A better world through a systems approach”. Underpinning our vision and mission are a strong set of principles and values, the building blocks of our existence. Likewise the execution of our 5 year objectives of growth, alliances, education, forums, competency and transformation must be backed. There is no question that each one of these provides us the guidance and focus to expand globally.

Nonetheless there is more we can do. INCOSE must continue to evolve and reshape to best serve our vision. We need to be ready to tackle the 4th industrial revolution that is upon the world. The magnitude and complexity for systems is potentially unbounded. Speed but not haste is required. Intellectual readiness needs to be assured. Thus, my vision for INCOSE is based on 4 pillars - Subject Knowledge Enrichment; Integrated INCOSE Communities; Refined Tactical Operations; and Communication and Accessibility.

INCOSE has developed a wonderful 2025 Vision document. This artefact aids us in preparing for advancing “all things systems”. To be forward thinking, the 2025 Vision document needs to turn into 2025 Plus (2025+) to avoid its use-by-date. For Subject Knowledge Enrichment, as leaders of Systems we need to accelerate with the times, embracing technology evolutions and disruptions, adapting and adopting new processes, tools and practices; all impacted by emerging subjects such as Digital Transformation, Smart Nations, Serious Games, Autonomous Systems, Sustainable Systems, Big Data Analytics, IoT, and AI. I will help focus our energies to expand into these areas, building on our traditional base subjects.

Subject Knowledge Enrichment equally applies to our Technical Operations and Working Groups. Just as we do today, we will continue to foster all discussions at every level in the technical arena. However, to be at industries’ forefront, we need to grasp new technologies and subjects, and refine our efforts on the more traditional topics, both with the objective of producing effective, targeted outputs. I believe we can do this by identifying mini projects and prioritising activities accordingly, enabling us to produce artefacts more efficiently and effectively in key areas.

In the educational stream, we not only need to continue to provide resources to train and educate individuals and organisations, we need to tap into another area – and that is providing awareness and guidance to non-Systems people who could benefit from an understanding of the fundamentals of a systems approach. I feel we need to do more in this area. Likewise, we need to take advantage of all training delivery streams now available, providing greater access to all interested parties and individuals, worldwide.

INCOSE has many great communities, from Academia to Certification, from Technical Operations to Outreach, from CAB to Chapters, and so forth. Yet at times I have seen and experienced unintentional divergence between our groups. As such I believe we can improve the integration of our own INCOSE communities with greater collaboration and communication. Thus, I will further facilitate the strengthening of the links between Chapters, CAB, Working Groups, Student Divisions and Outreach. Furthermore, we need to amplify the voice of our CAB representatives – they are after all major players in recommending INCOSE direction.

For INCOSE to undertake the initiatives I have described and deliver value to all stakeholders, you may query how this can be done - an excellent question! The backbone of our organisation is dedicated individuals, volunteering on working groups, committees and task teams for example. We also have a small team of professional support executing specific duties, a necessity for a global entity. However, no matter how dedicated individuals are under this operating model, responsiveness can be slow and targets difficult to meet. Hence we need to have Refined Tactical Operations, meaning we need to employ additional paid professional support where appropriate, to deliver timely outcomes, working under service level agreements, or equivalent. It may not appear to be a lot, but it is the small steps, when aggregated, that will progress INCOSE. With smarter refinement of our finances coupled with positive revenue growth I am confident we can do this. Leadership will still remain under our volunteer framework, with the advantage of our leadership team becoming more strategic in its undertakings. Just think what a wonderful achievement to complete a strategic initiative within one year!

My 4th visionary pillar of Communication and Accessibility requires all our support to execute. Our current means of communication through meetings, events, websites, webinars, eNotes, magazines, emails, to name a few, are great. Yet there is more we can do together. For example, I will undertake to look into additional avenues for participation, targeting younger demographics. This may boost volunteering without being recognised as “volunteering”. Similarly, we need to prioritise the effort to “open up” our terminology to communicate across industries and domains. I will also initiate a new communication channel whereby members can have access to the Board 2-3 times per year to engage directly in rich discussions.

My vision of what we can be is impelling and achievable with effort. The opportunity to embrace new subject content, to better integrate INCOSE communities, to refine tactical operations and to increase communication and accessibility, is both challenging and exhilarating. The pivotal requirement to execute this vision is a strong leadership team with diversity. INCOSE has this with their Board. After serving for the past 3 years on the Board, I am well versed in the needs, skills and dedication required to lead such a group. I am excited, energised, and humble to be given this opportunity. Thank you.

Biography

Kerry Lunney has been involved with INCOSE for 22 years. She joined the Systems Engineering Society of Australia (SESA) in 1995. In the same year she organised the inaugural conference to attract potential members. Kerry then went on to become the NSW State Leader for SESA from 1996-1997. As an active member of SESA, Kerry was part of the highly successful INCOSE IS2001events committee, where she was the Sponsorship Chair, raising more than \$300K USD. She also held the role as the IS2001 Master of Ceremonies (MC) in Melbourne Australia. From 2007-2009 Kerry was the National Chapter President of SESA and has since held the role of

Corresponding Member on the broader committee. In 2013 Kerry became a Certification Assessment Reviewer (CAR) for INCOSE. She now is the current INCOSE Sector Director for Asia-Oceania, serving on the INCOSE Board since 2015. Kerry has also supported INCOSE through delivering presentations at events, leading the strategic task team on Chapter Governance and Financial Model (CGFM), conducting workshops, and running INCOSE Certification training in Thales.

Kerry has extensive experience developing and delivering large system solutions, including design, software development, infrastructure implementation, hardware deployments, integration, sell-off, training and on-going support. She has worked in various industries including ICT, Gaming, Finance, Transport, Aerospace and Defence. The systems delivered include combat systems, mission systems, communication systems, road and rail ITSs, flight simulators, security systems, vehicle electronic systems, ICT systems and gaming systems. Kerry's career has taken her throughout the Asia-Oceania region and beyond, including engineering leadership roles in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA and NZ.

Kerry is currently the Country Engineering Director and a Chief Engineer for Thales Australia. In this role she provides technical leadership, design authorisation, and governance on bids and projects, delivers technical training programs, and participates in various technical communities across Thales worldwide.

Kerry holds a BE (Electrical), a MBA (Technology) and ESEP (INCOSE). She is a Fellow Member of Engineers Australia, a Chartered Professional Engineer and hold the status of Engineer Executive.