



“Too many of us prefer to settle into process roles and shun the burden of leadership.”

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Place of Birth: La Spezia, Italy

Current Residence: La Spezia, Italy

Domain: Defence

Years in systems engineering: More than 30

Year joined INCOSE: 2007

Role in INCOSE: President, Italy Chapter

How has systems engineering changed over the past 25 years?

On one hand, knowledge of system engineering has grown both in width and depth. Research has explored many areas, standards have evolved and a large amount of high quality documentation is now available (an amazing development considering the first book on the topic was published only 60 years ago). Also, the development of model-based systems engineering, systems modeling language and the many tools now available allow us to work in a more precise and systematic way.

On the other side, while the “process” component of systems engineering is now well understood and documented, my feeling is that the passion and motivation that enabled us to win the challenges of many groundbreaking projects in the past, is somewhat lost. Too many of us prefer to settle into process roles and shun the burden of leadership.

I am convinced that leadership is deeply needed to help humanity meet the great challenges of the future, and that systems engineers are in an advantaged position to provide it.

If you could work as a systems engineer in any industry (not your own), what would it be? Why?

I have worked in many fields of engineering, and enjoyed them all. The biomedical field (rehabilitation robotics) is particularly rewarding – you have a clear sense that your work will do some good for other people; that you are “benefiting humanity,” to cite INCOSE’s mission statement. But, indeed, to be useful to humankind is the fundamental purpose of engineering.

Anything you’d like to add about being the Italian chapter president?

I am now at the end of my mandate as president of the Chapter Italia. It has been an exciting and enriching experience, and I want to thank my colleagues of the board, and all the members and friends who have supported Chapter activities with the greatest enthusiasm.

AN INSIDE PERSPECTIVE