



INCOSE Spotlight on Serge Landry, ESEP

Interviewed by Sandy Young, info@incose.org

Name: Serge Landry, ESEP

Title: Group Head (Systems and Software)

Organization: Thales Solutions Asia

Place of Birth: Le Mans, France

Current Residence: Singapore

Domains: Research and technology; innovation

Studied in college: Mathematics and physics, micro-electronics, computer sciences, and artificial intelligence.

Year joined INCOSE: 2009

Role(s) in INCOSE: Immediate past-president of Singapore Chapter; first class of the INCOSE Technical Leadership Institute (2015-2017)

Years in systems engineering: 25+

1. How would you describe yourself in three words?

Curious, persistent and caring. I am curious by nature; I am interested in many things. I am always well intentioned towards others, careful about finding a win-win to benefit both sides.

2. When did you first hear about systems engineering?

The book “Software Engineering: A Practitioner’s Approach” from S. Pressman had a chapter on systems engineering that caught my attention when I was preparing a software engineering lecture at the University of Malaya in 1988. Upon joining Thales in late 1989, I contributed to the migration of the internal processes from the French GAM T17 to the DOD 2167A standards. This gave me a systems inclination early on in my career.

3. What are you working on today?

After working many years on development and delivery of mission-critical systems for end customers, I now focus my attention on research and innovation, looking for new ideas, creating differentiators for both the end-user and the business.

I also work on deploying and improving company processes as well as maintaining and improving the skill levels of our engineer populations as part of my role as head of system discipline.

4. Complete the sentence: The biggest development in systems engineering in the near future will be about trade-offs for sustainability. Why?

We are inventing new things at a constantly increasing rate, while our resources are more and more limited. We have to keep on doing more with less.

5. What did you learn from the INCOSE Technical Leadership Institute?

Among other things, I have learned or fine-tuned:

- Learning by doing: giving as a way to receive.
- Different leadership styles are useful in different contexts and with different people.
- Improving interactions with teams, peers and managers.
- The power of self-organizing teams.

6. Tell us about your nomination for INCOSE's Asia Oceania director position.

I am a nominated candidate, which is a great honor and responsibility. Should the sector 3 chapter presidents elect me, I will dedicate my energy to serve the various stakeholders of our organization, starting with the members, to increase the impact of system engineering for the benefit of society as a whole. My vision is now available on INCOSE [website](#).

7. What do you like to do outside of work?

To balance my sedentary life at the office, I engage in sportive activities like aikido (non-violent Japanese martial art) and unicycling (on a single wheel riding cross country or playing hockey).