Welcome Newsletter

01/11/2013   2013-1

In this issue:
- A letter from the SEMAT Chair.
- A letter from the SEMAT Editor.

A letter form the Semat Chair

Dear Reader,

I am very pleased to see the first issue of *SEMAT Newsletter* published today. SEMAT experienced a beautiful takeoff in 2013 in many aspects. We now have four functional areas and six regional chapters; all very active with about one hundred people regularly participating in various web meetings at least a few times a month.

The *Practice Area* with over twenty active participants led by Paul McMahon at PEM Systems and Ian Spence at IJI is developing Essence User Guide and Practice Development Guide. The *Education Area* with almost 30 active participants led by Cecile Peraire at CMU in Silicon Valley and Mira Kajko-Mattsson at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden is developing educational courses and course materials based on Essence as the common ground. The *Theory Area* with about fifteen active participants led by Pontus Johnson at KTH and Michael Goedicke at University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany runs the General Theory of Software Engineering Workshop series very successfully.

A letter from the SEMAT Editor

Dear Reader,

Greetings and a very warm welcome to the very first issue of SEMAT Newsletter! I have the honor and privilege of serving as its editor. It is with much joy and anticipation that I launch the SEMAT Newsletter with this inaugural issue.

On behalf of the SEMAT community, I would like to welcome you both to the readership and authorship. The newsletter will bring you latest news and information that you need to keep up with on the SEMAT status and progress. The newsletter will also disseminate information on the challenges SEMAT meets and efforts it makes to capitalize on its promises ahead. I sincerely hope that the newsletter will provide an ideal forum for a dialog between its readers and the SEMAT members, for discussions on improvements and, when necessary, for explanations for why SEMAT has made certain decisions and changes.

The newsletter is going to be a bimonthly periodical. I welcome all kinds of contributions related to SEMAT and its results. The contributions may be delivered in various formats

New tools facilitating the uptake of SEMAT Essence coming up!

SEMAT is an exciting initiative driven by inspiring practitioners and academics around the world. The ambitious goal of SEMAT is to build a solid theoretical basis for the complex domain of software engineering. As a result, the Essence Theory of software engineering has been proposed. However, for any novel innovation in our field, tools are needed to make sense out the proposed ideas. In particular the tools should be used for educational and business purposes alike, they should create awareness from the top-management to a single team demonstrating the capabilities, and be easy to use and fun as well.

Free University of Bozen-Bolzano rises up the challenge and has begun the development of an open-source Web-based tool called the *Semat Accelerator* (SematAcc), facilitating the uptake of Essence ideas in a very concrete way. We are developing SematAcc as a web-positioning tool for a software engineering endeavor, which implements the SEMAT's Essence kernel. The tool enables teaching, adopting, and researching Essence in controlled experiments and case studies. The first version is already out. Go check it out at http://sematacc.meteor.com and let us know what you think.

Pekka Abrahamsson and Daniel Graziotin

Graziotin, D and Abrahamsson, P 2013. A Web-based modeling tool for the SEMAT Essence theory of software engineering. *Journal of Open Research Software* 1(1):e4, DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/jors.ad

A letter form the Semat Chair, cont.

The *Community Area* consisting of four tracks— (1) *Community Growth Track* led by Yury Katkov at WikiVote in Russia, (2) *Web Site Track* led by Sifiso Motha at Figtory in South Africa, (3) *Legal Entity Track* led by myself, and (4) *Intellectual Property Track* led by Paul McMahon—involves about 15 active participants. They work on (1) setting up a legal entity for SEMAT as a non-profit incorporation in the State of Florida, (2) re-constructing our web site, (3) establishing the IP policy for SEMAT, (4) registering SEMAT trademarks, (5) editing a Wikipedia article for SEMAT, (6) planning an Annual SEMAT Summit Conference, (7) holding *All Hands Meetings* monthly, and so forth.

We now have six regional chapters including China, Japan, Korea, Latin America, Russia and South Africa, where about fifty leaders are actively operating their respective chapters. Last but not least, OMG released Essence 1.0 Beta 1 in July 2013. The Essence Finalization TF is making final revisions led by Ed Seidewitz at IJI. We expect OMG to release the Essence 1.0 Specification during the first half of 2014.

We are witnessing a wide acceptance of Essence worldwide and a rapid growth of the SEMAT community. However, we need to strive further to establish SEMAT as the leading global community to advance software engineering theory and practice. We need to publish a lot more on Essence. We need to secure funding from industry and governments to support the growing operation of SEMAT and to provide research grants to SEMAT members. We wish to develop a coherent set of training and certification programs, to help schools and universities use Essence as a foundation for software engineering education, to build a practice library and create a marketplace where software practitioners can submit, trade and download best practices aiding them in composing their project methods, and to provide easy-to -study online interactive learning materials.

A letter from the SEMAT Editor, cont.

such as work-in-progress reports, case study reports, notes on research results, notifications of up-and-coming events and breakthroughs, best practice experiences, opinion pieces, commentaries, quizzes, and even advertisements communicating work or work results related to SEMAT. I welcome all kinds of contributions from researchers, practitioners, teachers, managers and other roles.

In this newsletter, both the SEMAT Chair and editor welcome the newsletter's future readers and contributors. Please take some time to get acquainted with the SEMAT's new symbol in the upper right-hand corner of the newsletter. It is written in Egyptian hieroglyphs and it symbolizes an ancient Egyptian queen whose name was Semat. Semat was a wife of the King Den and she held two titles: (1) She who sees Horus and (2) She who carries Seth. I feel that the Queen Semat can be used as a nice metaphor expressing the mission of the SEMAT initiative. Therefore, I also welcome readers to come up with suggestions for how to metaphorize Semat's capability in the context of the SEMAT initiative.

I hope you will find this newsletter useful, informative and stimulating, and I welcome your contributions, comments and suggestions that could improve the quality of the newsletter. The newsletter is going to be provided free of charge and it will be always available online on www.semat.org/newsletter.

With warmest welcome,

Mira Kajko-Mattsson, Editor

Publishing this newsletter is indeed a new activity initiated by the Community Growth Track. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Mira Kajko-Mattsson who serves as the Editor of this newsletter. Anyone supporting SEMAT and Essence are welcome to join the SEMAT community and participate in many of its ongoing and forthcoming initiatives.

Dr. June Sung Park
Executive Chairman, SEMAT
Professor of Computer Science and Industrial Engineering,
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and technology
President, Korea Software Technology Training Institute