



## Welcome Newsletter

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### Dear Reader,

Spring is knocking at our doors and the SEMAT community welcomes it and its readers by presenting some of the winter crops. This issue reports on SEMAT moving forward. Four of the SEMAT Chapters provide a brief account of their local activities. Finally, two SEMAT Areas give an account of their progress.

*Mira Kajko-Mattsson*

## Moving Forward Semat

### Moving Forward Semat

Going forward SEMAT should address some new areas. We expect that SEMAT supporters want us to continue the work now laid out by Essence, the emerging standard, and thus develop practices, practice library, tools, guides, etc. However, we also think that the supporters want us to both broaden and deepen the work.

Broadening means that other areas than software engineering will be addressed, for instance system engineering, business engineering, high-school education, yes, maybe anything that has to do with human endeavors.

The work on a General Theory in Software Engineering deepens our understanding of what we do when we develop software. This work has got an excellent start and we have seen great ideas being presented. Though the Essence (Kernel and Language) serves as a detailed definition of software engineering and can guide the research, there are other possible ways of getting to a GTSE. We don't want to restrict research in any way, and for that matter, we don't want to restrict any constructive work in our sphere of interest.

*Ivar Jacobson*

### Moving Forward Semat

Right now, we continue working on the area of software engineering where June Sung Park, Paul McMahon and Barry Myburgh have submitted for publication a paper titled "Scrum Powered by Essence". This paper shows how Scrum project management practice is enabled and enhanced using the Essence kernel and demonstrates practical benefits of using Essence as a common foundation for defining software engineering practices. These practical benefits include the ability to compare practices, assess potential gaps, make needed practice improvements, and assemble select practices into a coherent method to benefit the project team. In addition, by providing practical checklists, as opposed to conceptual discussions, the Essence-powered practice becomes something the team uses on a daily basis. This is a fundamental difference to how things have traditionally been done, where method description seems to dominate as opposed to method use.

June Sung Park, Ivar Jacobson, Barry Myburgh and Pontus Johnson wrote a paper titled "SEMAT Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow-An Industrial Perspective". The paper was presented during the All Hands Meeting of SEMAT on February 24th. This paper provides an historical overview of where SEMAT started, its achievements of the past, today's priorities and plans for the future. The paper is aimed primarily at readers from Industry. While brief entries have been made about software engineering theory, the paper does little to develop discussion about theory. This will be done in a separate publication.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of SEMAT Inc. was held on February 17th. The meeting was attended by the BoD members - Drs. Ivar Jacobson, Paul Nielsen and Martin Griss - and SEMAT Office including President June Sung Park, Secretary Paul McMahon and Treasurer Cecile Praire. The BoD is currently developing the bylaws - the operating rules-of SEMAT Inc.

The OMG Essence Finalization TF is currently going through ballots on the resolutions of the issues raised from all over the world. The final revised version is likely to be approved by the OMG Board of Directors by April, at which time Essence becomes a formal standard specification for the Kernel and Language for Software Engineering Methods.

*June Sung Park*



# Chapter Reports

## Japan Chapter

In these months, there were several talks on introducing the idea of SEMAT Essence to engineers and researchers in Japan by SEMAT Japan Chapter members. The article "Agile and SEMAT Perfect Partners" has been introduced on Chapter Facebook page so that Chapter members could share its idea. Now, we think about future translation of the article into Japanese.

*Hironori Washizaki*

## Russian Chapter

We are pleased to announce that SEMAT Russian Chapter has been successful in growing. Now, we do not only have specialists in Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ulyanovsk and other cities in Russia) but also in Belorussia. Recently, the Russian Chapter has been very active in progressing the SEMAT work. Below, we report on its activities.

A group of SEMAT members are in the progress of finalizing the translation of SEMAT GLOSSARY and Essence book into Russian. EC-leasing group is working on research of application of SEMAT ESSENCE on the entire software life cycle. The first results are going to be presented on GTSE'2014. Some members of SEMAT Russian Chapter and INCOSE members are working together on the application of ESSENCE to System Engineering. Some members of SRC are working in a few SEMAT Areas. Finally, SRC is preparing a conference, "Actual Problems of System and Software Engineering", to be taken place in Moscow in autumn 2014. Also, SRC and "Software Engineering" Magazine have agreed to publish a series of articles concerning SEMAT.

*Boris Pozin*

## China Chapter

In recent months, China Chapter has been successful in moving forward SEMAT.

- **The Chinese translations of the Essence book** has been published and the book is for sale in Chinese bookstores since December of 2013.
- **National-wide Road-show of SEMAT.** The first stop has been inaugurated in Beijing in Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 with the support of ZhongGuanCun Software Park. More than 400 software engineers attended the seminars given by Dr. Ivar Jacobson

## South African Chapter

In South Africa, the New Year started with a change in office bearers. Tony van der Linden stepped down as chair after a stint of about 18 months and welcomed Barry Myburgh as the new chair. The role of Chapter Secretary has also changed and is now in the hands of Richard Oates. The Chapter executive has identified growth of the local community as a top priority and the process of preparing a schedule of events is underway. Attention has also been given to collaboration with some international activities in the Practice, Education and Community areas.

*Barry Myburgh*

## Latin American Chapter

The translation of Essence book into Spanish is almost completed. Accordingly, we are preparing a huge event for launching it to the Semat Community. Next July, we will be re-editing the Latin American Software Engineering Symposium LASES 2014, the same event that we held in 2011 for creating the Latin American Chapter. This time, Paul McMahan and Ian Spence, have been invited as Keynote Speakers. Also, some members of the Latin American Chapter such as Ramón García-Martínez, Judith Barrios, Jonás Montilva, and Luis Salazar will be there for presenting the advances related to Semat in the Latin American region. Barranquilla, a beautiful northern city in Colombia, was selected for this important appointment. Practitioners, clients, and academics will be there for celebrating the launch of the book's Spanish translation on LASES 2014. Good News for the Latin American Chapter!

*Carlos Mario Zapata Jaramillo*

directly. The second stop will be held in Shen Zhen with the support of Huawei Company.

- **SEMAT training course and consulting services.** There are now several SEMAT training courses, and consulting and certification services available provided by IJI Consulting in Greater China. Some of the largest brands in China Telecommunication and Banks are using IJI consulting of SEMAT to enhance their software development efficiency and productivity. Projects from Agile to traditional ones have started tasting the SEMAT benefits and innovation to form their future software development teams.

*Chen Zhong*



## Area Reports

### User Guide Track

This month, the Essence User Guide group decided to make the results of the group's work available incrementally through the new SEMAT web site. Our vision is to make each scenario in the guide accessible directly from the web site. The scenarios that have been developed to date focus on ways practitioners can apply the Essence kernel to help them with common challenges faced. There will also be a frequently asked questions section, along with a method for the public to provide feedback on the User Guide material. The User Guide group is also currently working on answering questions related to Intellectual Property (IP) related to the material that will be made available through the web site. If any one is interested in helping with the Intellectual Property rules for SEMAT, please contact Paul McMahon.

*Paul McMahon*

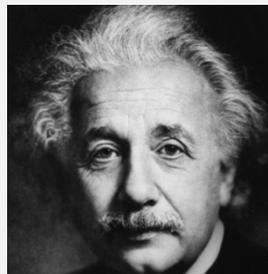
### Education Area

The *Education Area* continues creating hands-on exercises to be used by the novice learners. Right now, the group is creating common slides to be shared by the SEMAT community. The slides under development deal with (1) presentation of SEMAT and the reasons behind creating a common ground, and (2) introduction to the Kernel.

*Cecile Pinaire and Mira Kajko-Mattsson*

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

The only source of knowledge is experience.



*Albert Einstein*

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.

Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler

If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts.