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Dear Reader,

Summer has come and we are wending our way towards full bloom, sea breeze or a hammock in the wild to make a new start in our lives. And so does SEMAT. SEMAT has been recently very successful in getting ESSENCE accepted as an OMG standard and in generating many fruitful events. For instance, a new chapter in India has been inaugurated and more than 2000 books of the Chinese version of “The Essence of Software Engineering – Applying SEMAT Kernel” were sold during the 2014 INT’L SOFT CHINA Expo days. In this issue, we give a report on the spring events and on the activities within the SEMAT Chapters.

Mira Kajko-Mattsson



OMG Board of Directors Announces Adoption of Essence Standard as Official OMG Standard

On June 16, 2014, the Object Management Group (OMG) announced that its Board of Directors adopted “Essence Kernel and Language for Software Engineering Methods” as an official OMG standard (<http://www.omg.org/news/releases/pr2014/06-16-14.htm>).

"We're very excited that Essence has been adopted as an official OMG standard," said Dr. Richard Soley, Chairman and CEO of OMG. "By providing a common set of core concepts and language, Essence allows practitioners to flexibly construct and adapt software engineering methods. A very large 'thank you' to our members in the Essence 1.0 Finalization Task Force for getting it through the OMG technology adoption process."

The Second Step of SEMAT

SEMAT has reached its first objective: a standard common ground for software engineering called Essence. The standard has been formally adopted by OMG in June 2014. SEMAT has also some work going on. It concerns rewriting well-known practices using Essence as a platform, creating training material for both universities and industry and developing some tools that are now becoming available. More is being developed to both create own methods using a practice library built on top of the kernel and to actually help a team during their daily work in developing software. Best of all, some successful usages have been presented in several different areas of the software industry. Since the standard has been adopted, we now have a stable language to write practices and the industry can really benefit from our work.

Last month, a call for action for worldwide SEMAT adoption (see below) was sent to thirty active contributors of SEMAT. So far, twenty two have recommitted to play important roles to produce practices, education materials, tools, case studies and theoretical studies. We welcome more active participants from around the world to take part in various SEMAT activities. Regional chapters of SEMAT currently in operation in China, India, Japan, Korea, Latin America, South Africa and Russia and those to be set up in the near future in other areas of the world will no doubt accelerate the worldwide SEMAT adoption.

June Sung Park

Chairman of Executive Committee
of SEMAT

Call for Action for Worldwide SEMAT Adoption

- Produce Essence education materials, practical user guides, training and certification programs, tools, ready-made practices, practice libraries, and practice marketplaces to help practitioners compose methods using the Essence-based practices and enact them in daily endeavors
- Produce case stories, case studies and quantitative results to show real benefits gained from using the Essence
- Produce theoretical studies that help improve the OMG Essence specification, and predict the effect of using Essence to solidify theoretical basis for future evolution of Essence.
- Build SEMAT Inc. as a vehicle to effectively organize, coordinate, fund and reward the activities of SEMAT participants worldwide, and at the same time, increase the number of regional chapters and promote their local activities. To that end, we need to rebuild the SEMAT web site, link it to popular social networks, and encourage all SEMAT participants not only to communicate and collaborate, but also to share and transact valuable contents and intellectual properties through the web site.



Inauguration of SEMAT India Chapter

Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata hosted an inauguration of India SEMAT Chapter on June 4, 2014. The inauguration included two events: (1) an Executive Committee meeting and (2) Tutorial on “*Essence – A Foundation for Software Development Games*”. Below, we briefly report on what happened on that day.



Figure 1. The executive committee meeting. Participants from left to right: Prof. Subho Chaudhuri, Dr. Debasish Jana, Dr. Pinakpani Pal, Dr. Mira Kajko-Mattsson and Dr. Ivar Jacobson

The Executive Committee meeting was held at 9am. The Executive members of SEMAT India Chapter - Dr. Pinakpani Pal, Chairman, Dr. Debasish Jana, Vice-Chairman., Dr. Sanjoy Saha, Secretary, Dr. Radha Tamal Goswami, Treasurer, Dr. Abhik Mukherjee, Member, Prof. Apurva A., Desai, Member (joined via Skype) and Prof. Subho Chaudhuri, Invitee had a detailed discussion with Dr. Ivar Jacobson and Dr. Mira Kajko-Mattsson regarding the formation and future plans of India Chapter. The following points were discussed and accepted:

1. Draft Memorandum of Association (MoA) including the role of the India Chapter and its Executive Committee members. MoA is required to register any society in India.
2. List of necessary steps to be taken in order to register SEMAT India, including its temporary address.
3. Activities of SEMAT India Chapter in the coming months:
 - A. The proposed next activities are (1) Tutorial or Keynote / Plenary Talk on SEMAT during 2014 Fourth International Conference on Emerging Applications of Information Technology (EAIT 2014) to be held during December 19-21, 2014 at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and (2) lecture during a workshop to be held in December 2014/ March 2015 in Surat, Gujarat
 - B. Initiative to enroll members from academia and industry
 - C. Introduction of student membership and/or Student Section under SEMAT India Chapter.

4. Entrustment of SEMAT India Chapter Executive Committee to make a decision regarding the membership fees and raising funds
5. The aspect of the autonomy of SEMAT Chapter has been explained by Dr. Jacobson
6. Exploration of the possibility to have speakers from SEMAT on the above-proposed activities.

The Tutorial was given by Dr. Ivar Jacobson and Dr. Mira Kajko-Mattsson. It was jointly organized by SEMAT India Chapter & Electronics and Communication Sciences Unit, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata at Platinum Jubilee Auditorium of ISI, Kolkata.



Figure 2. The speakers during the tutorial session. From left to right: Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy, Dr. Debasish Jana, Dr. Ivar Jacobson and Dr. Mira Kajko-Mattsson

The tutorial was inaugurated by Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy, the Director of Indian Statistical Institute who strongly encouraged the creation of SEMAT India Chapter. As a next step, Dr. Debasish Jana, Vice-Chairman introduced Dr. Jacobson and Dr. Kajko-Mattsson. He also highlighted some historic milestones of Dr. Jacobson. Afterwards, both Ivar and Mira gave the tutorial presentation.

There were 48 participants from both the academia and industry. All the participants enjoyed the tutorial with full enthusiasm and concentration. The two-hour tutorial was very interactive. A set of alpha cards deck was distributed to each participant as a token of remembrance as well as participation. At the end of the tutorial, a half an hour question and answer session was organized which was anchored by Dr. Sanjoy Saha, the Secretary of SEMAT India Chapter. The tutorial was concluded with a memorable note with a group photo session of all the participants and lunch at Indian Statistical Institute Guest House.

The journey has just begun. So, let us forward!
Dr. Pinakpani Pal, Chairman, SEMAT India Chapter and Dr. Debasish Jana, Vice Chairman, SEMAT India Chapter



Figure 3. The tutorial participants including the presenters



SEMAT Events

Workshop on General Theory of Software Engineering (GTSE 2014)



Prof. Pontus Johansson



GTSE attendees

Many academic disciplines have general theories forming solid basis for research. Software engineering discipline, on the other hand, lacks a general theory. The goal of the Third Workshop on SEMAT General Theory of Software Engineering was to uncover a theoretical basis for software engineering. The workshop took place in Hyderabad in India on June 2 in 2014 and it was co-located with the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2014). Hopefully, the workshop results will put industry, research and education on a sound theoretical footing to facilitate better decision-making and better software. Participants explored different types of theories and ways of assembling them into a framework. Participants debated on how to make theories practical to practitioners and commonly agreed that different types of practitioners e.g. developers, managers, coaches have different theoretical needs.

ParWei Ng and Pontus Johansson

Initial Essence Training Certification Process Announced

In April, the Initial Essence Training Certification Process was completed and approved by every member of the executive committee of SEMAT consisting of June Park, Paul McMahon, Mira Kajko-Mattsson, Ian Spence, Arne Berre, Shihong Huang, and Michael Goedicke. The work on this process was led by Paul McMahon who is vice president of SEMAT Inc. The process was adopted in late April, and IJI has, as expected, applied and has been approved as an authorized training and certification institute. For more information on how to apply to become an authorized Essence Training and Certification institute, you are welcome to read the Initial Training Certification Process that can be downloaded from the SEMAT web site (www.semat.org).

Paul McMahon

Tutorial



Ivar Jacobsson introducing the tutorial

Tutorial on “Essence – A Foundation for Software Development Games” took place on ICSE 2014 in Hyderabad on June 3, 2014. It focused on providing an innovative and novel hands-on experience of the Kernel using cards and game boards. The goal was to demonstrate the Essence Kernel’s usefulness, effectiveness, supportiveness and ease of use. The attendees were practitioners, educators and researchers in software engineering. The tutorial was a success. Many attendees were of the opinion that the Kernel was simple to grasp and easy to use. They also stated that both the Kernel and cards constituted excellent tools for measuring progress and health of software projects.

Shihong Huang, Arne Berre, Ivar Jacobsson, ParWei Ng, Mira Kajko-Mattsson



Chapter Reports

Japan Chapter

Since last year, Japan Chapter members have published several papers on SEMAT and related things at mainly Japanese domestic research meetings and workshops. Moreover, Japanese Chapter members are preparing SEMAT Essence Card Games to be used in July.

Hironori Washizaki

China Chapter

2014 INT'L SOFT CHINA Expo was held in Beijing from May 29th to 31st. As one of the key activities, the Forum of Software Engineering & Quality was organized by CSIA and ZhongGuanCun Zhilian Software and Service Industry Quality Innovation Alliance (hereafter shortly Zhilian Alliance) in May 30. More than 500 members of the Zhilian Alliance attended the Forum. Prof. Zhong Chen, Chairman of SEMAT China Chapter, was invited to give a talk titled as “The Development and Changes of Software Engineering Body of Knowledge”. After having reviewed 40+ year historical progress of SWEBOK, prof. Chen introduced the state-of-the-art progress of current SEMAT Essence and Kernel as a new standard of OMG that will benefit software developers and companies to meet the challenges in the internet era.

A Report from the publisher shows that more than 2000 books of the Chinese version of “The Essence of Software Engineering – Applying SEMAT Kernel” were sold during the 2014 INT'L SOFT CHINA Expo days.

Chen Zhong

Korea Chapter

A research project to develop a tool to support the use of Essence in software engineering projects has been started in April 2014 with a funding from the Institute of Information and Communications Technology Promotion in Korea. The tool will help writing software engineering practices based on the Essence kernel, assembling the practices into a method, orchestrating the methods into an executable workflow of a project, linking the workflow with a project management tool, and supporting real-time collaboration and monitoring of the project progress. The research project is conducted by a consortium comprised of uEngine Solutions (Principal Investigator; open source BPMS vendor), EnKiSoft (open source StarUML provider), MHR (cloud service broker), 2e Consulting (IT service provider) and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. An initial version will be released before the end of 2014 and the full version is planned to be released by the end of 2015 as an open source software as well as a commercial SaaS.

June Sung Park

South African Chapter

Plans are underway to feature SEMAT and Essence at a few events during the upcoming Fak'ugesi Festival in Johannesburg. Fak'ugesi means “turn on the electricity” and is the name chosen for the Digital Festival that runs from early August until late September this year. Events where SEMAT Essence is expected to be on the agenda include the Agile Africa Conference, evening talks in the Software Engineering series and a one-day workshop where delegates will be given a chance to apply Essence. Essence has also recently been included in the syllabi of various courses at Wits University.

Barry Myburgh

Latin American Chapter

Software Engineering: Methods, Modeling, and Teaching, vol. 3 is the name of the book to be presented at the next Latin American Software Engineering Symposium (LASES 2014), to be held in Barranquilla, Colombia. In this volume, we promoted the usage of the Semat Kernel and we selected several contributions from countries like USA, China, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. Method representations, teaching experiences, and theoretical approaches were the most selected issues to be covered in the book. LASES 2014 will also be the event for launching the Spanish translation of the Essence book, recently published by Nueva Libreria in Argentina. We hope this event will serve the purpose of recommitting the Semat initiative in Latin America.

Carlos Mario Zapata Jaramillo

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 has finalized the translation of SEMAT GLOSSARY and article titled as “SEMAT Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” for publication in “Software Engineering” Magazine. EC-learning group is doing research on applying SEMAT ESSENCE on the entire software life cycle. The first results included in a MSc dissertation are to be presented in September. Some members of SEMAT Russian Chapter and INCOSE are working together on applying ESSENCE on System Engineering. They held INCOSE seminar on this topic. SRC members held SEMAT seminar at MESI University for future magisters. Some members of SRC are working in a few SEMAT Areas. SRC is in progress of preparing a few publications about SEMAT and Essence OMG Standard for “*Software Engineering*” Magazine.

Boris Pozin