

In this issue, the SEMAT Founder Ivar Jacobson and the SEMAT Chairman June Sung Park provide a semi annual report on the SEMAT activities and progress.



Letter from the SEMAT Founder and Chairman

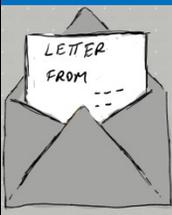
SEMAT is moving forward slowly ☺, yet steadily ☺. We are working and progressing on several frontiers. The fruits of our labor are becoming clearly noticeable all over the world.

Education: An absolute must for the long-term success of SEMAT is that we get a great education program for universities. Mira Kajko-Mattsson at KTH in Sweden, Cecile Peraire at Carnegie Mellon in Silicon Valley, Carlos Jaramillo at National University of Columbia and many other people have been working here and many more people have expressed interest in participating. As more output come from the Practice Area, they will be able to make a more complete program, and we are getting there.

Practice: The Essence User Guide is ready for publication thanks to Paul McMahon at PEM Systems in U.S.A. and Ian Spence at Ivar Jacobson International (IJI) who led this effort as co-chairs of the Practice Area in SEMAT. The Practice Area is now working on a Practice Development Guide, which is a good way to get other people to develop practices themselves. All these publications will be accessible from the new SEMAT web site, which will be open soon. We need say 50 practices described on top of Essence. Then people get something readily valuable. IJI has just announced an Agile Essentials practice package including seven practices. The Agile Essentials extracts (essentializes) the useful practice guidance from XP, Scrum, Kanban and other popular agile approaches, and presents it as a useful and usable set of practice cards that development teams can freely select, combine and adapt to help them work effectively as a team. A total of 29 practices are being developed at IJI and will be made public in the next 6 months. Other people such as June Sung Park, Arne Berre at SINTEF in Norway are working on describing practices (such as Scrum, Agile Modeling, Business Engineering and Project Management) using Essence.

Tool: Tools are needed for success in the industry. uEngine Solutions in Korea is in the process of developing an open source tool to support Essence-based practice development and management—release date is not far away. IJI has for many years developed a set of tools, which they are using in customer engagements.

continued on page 2



Letter from the SEMAT Founder and Chairman, continued

Industry Adoption: We have a number of good case stories—from Fujitsu, Red Hat, Munich Re and Huawei. Many more companies have started using or experimenting with Essence including Google, LG Electronics and Brazilian Government. An Essence-in-Practice Conference was held in the OMG Technical Meeting in Berlin last month. The video recordings of presentations in this seminar including success stories will be provided on the SEMAT web site soon.

Essentialization: Essence is spreading to other disciplines and methodologies. A discussion is going on to set up a new area within SEMAT to develop Essence for Systems Engineering. A book titled *Software in the Systems Context* coedited by Bud Lawson and Ivar Jacobson with almost 20 authors (including Barry Boehm, Ian Sommerville, Tom Gilb, Don O'Neill, Paul McMahon, Barry Myburgh and June Sung Park) will be published within the next couple of months. Essence is a major idea in many chapters of the book. This will certainly result in an increased interest in Essence among software and system engineers. Discussions are also underway for reconstructing software engineering methods based on Essence—including a methodology for Internet of Things/Industrial Internet and an agile approach developed by a well-known methodology consortium.

Theory: The work on a General Theory of Software Engineering (GTSE) is moving forward. The 4th annual GTSE Workshop was held on the ICSE conference in Florence in May, where Barry Boehm, Pontus Johnson, June Sung Park and others presented new theoretical results on software engineering including Essence-based adaptive software engineering.

New Website: A new SEMAT website based on the Liferay Portal platform is just about to be launched. This work is led by Michael Goedicke at University of Duisberg in Germany and Rick Jang at uEngine Solutions in Korea. Those of us who have seen the latest of the new site are impressed and cannot wait until it goes live.

OMG Standard: Essence 1.1 has been accepted by the OMG Architecture Board thanks to Ed Seidewitz who chaired Essence 1.1 Revision TF and many more around the world who submitted and commented on various issues. Once it is adopted by the OMG Platform Technology Committee and the OMG Board of Directors, version 1.1 will become the official standard. Version 1.1 is an incremental update, making a small number of clarifications and corrections to the specification and adding a new kind of card for "Level of Detail". An Essence 1.2 Revision TF has now been chartered to work on further improvements of the specification. June Sung Park at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) has been named as its chair.

All of us active in working within SEMAT are very positive about the progress and success of SEMAT. However, in order to accelerate industry adoption of Essence, we definitely need more volunteers to define together practices and methods using the Essence Kernel and Language, and do many more things to help refound software engineering. Everyone who receives this newsletter is welcome to participate in SEMAT, and to participate, you may just drop either of us an email telling your interests.

All of us actively working within SEMAT are very positive to the result achieved this far. We enjoy moving forward towards fulfilling our mission and towards observing the profound impact of Essence in all frontiers of software engineering domain such as education, practices, tools, standardization and so forth.

*Ivar Jacobson, Founder and Chief Advisor of SEMAT
June Sung Park, Chairman and President of SEMAT, Inc.*