

OPENING REMARKS

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I would like to welcome you to this meeting of the International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences. We are very grateful to Sichuan University and the Chinese Society for Systems Engineering for hosting this conference. In fact the founding meeting of IASCYS was held at Sichuan University in 2010. A second meeting was held in 2015. This is the third meeting of IASCYS to be held at Sichuan University which is in the top 100 of 10,000 universities in the ranking by the Academic Ranking of World Universities. The support of Sichuan University and the Chinese Society for Systems Engineering has been a major factor in the successful establishment of the International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences. Professors Jifa Gu and Jiping Xu and their colleagues and the top administrators of Sichuan University, have been the key people in arranging this support, and we thank them very much. This meeting is being attended by almost all of the members of the Executive Committee of IASCYS and by several additional academicians.

Those who are in Chengdu for the first time may be interested in some special features of Chengdu. Chengdu is an important city in western China and so has a key role in the Belt and Road Initiative which is the plan for the physical and economic development of China. The Singapore-Sichuan Chengdu Park of High Technologies for Innovation will contain a Medtronic Center which will contribute to the training of 7000 health professionals in 2020. Recently there was discovered in Chengdu center the Fugan Temple (from the Jin, Tang and Song dynasties) and there is a new museum of Kuizhou with the largest number of antique cultural objects in the world. In the district of Fengjie is Chongqing, the most populous city in the world with 35 million people. Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province and Chengdu is near the giant power plant of the Three Gorges Dam (the largest in the world) on the Jinsha River, the river than runs through Chengdu. It is the upper stream of the Yangtze River. Two years ago we were taken to see an ancient irrigation project on the Jinsha River.

So, Chengdu is an auspicious location for an academy for systems and cybernetic sciences to meet. IASCYS is an international honor society initially created as a project within the International Federation for Systems Research. Since 2015 IASCYS has been an independent organization. Matjaz Mulej and Jifa Gu were, I believe, the most active people in creating this new organization, although several others played important roles (for example, Gary Metcalf, Gerhard Chroust, and Ranulph Glanville). The person who has been most instrumental in building IASCYS has been our secretary general Pierre Bricage. The purpose of IASCYS is to recognize and honor people who have made exceptional contributions to the fields of systems science and cybernetics.

The academicians in IASCYS are people who are committed to building these fields through theoretical and applied contributions, by establishing educational programs at universities, and in creating connections among academic fields. Presently there are an increasing number of academic leaders who are calling for more transdisciplinary work to aid specialists from various fields to work together to develop a common language. The people in this field share the goal to attain more holism in defining and solving human problems, be they environmental problems, engineering problems, or social problems, whether at local or global levels, operating in the traditions of Bertalanffy, Wiener, and many

others. The fields of systems science and cybernetics are prepared to meet these challenges. So I am confident that the fields will be increasingly important in the future as we work on the many challenges of moving the populations of the world into more comfortable, more productive and more innovative societies, societies that continually seek to enrich their scientific and technical achievements and their artistic and cultural contributions.

IASCYS is not just an honor society. Currently academicians are contributing to writing textbooks, handbooks and encyclopedias in systems science and cybernetics. Short courses are being offered and university level curricula are being designed. Presently new, multidisciplinary organizations are being created. Academicians from IASCYS are arranging meetings with these newer organizations to share our knowledge and experience. The number of books on systems thinking and cybernetics is rising. It is an exciting time for the field.