

Preface

Dear friends and colleagues,

as we know, Engineering processes have always been the glue that holds together all activities within product development and design. Engineering processes structure these activities appropriately and secure their reasonable processing. They ensure the correct and timely use of appropriate approaches & procedures, methods, data, and tools in order to improve the design procedures, improve products and services, and properly document both the resulting product as well as its development processes. It has been both the aim of the SIG MMEP (Modelling and Management of Engineering Processes) and of its conferences to contribute to a smart and smooth definition, application, and navigation of Engineering Processes.

I founded the SIG MMEP in 2003 based on discussions at different ICEDs, Rigi meetings, and IPD Workshops that clearly showed the necessity of consolidating the definition, the prospect, and the handling of processes in our Engineering environment. At ICED 07 in Paris I was pleased that John Clarkson agreed to share the SIG leadership with me in order to compare and to put together different approaches of managing Engineering processes and projects in turbulent environments, on which both our institutions have had a long and successful research history. We were lucky that Peter Heisig could be convinced to become a member of the team.

The MMEP conference series were launched in 2010 as a bi-annual event providing an international platform to highlight and to discuss industry best practices alongside leading edge academic research. The second MMEP conference in 2012 focussed on exploring potential synergies between different modelling approaches, and discussed future directions both in managing and researching engineering processes. The participants at MMEP 2012 decided to meet again at ICED 13 in Seoul and for the third MMEP conference in Magdeburg.

In 2013 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our SIG. On behalf of my co-editors it was our pleasure organising the 3rd International Conference on MMEP 2013 at the Wasserburg (moated castle) of Gommern, close to Magdeburg, where it all started at the Otto-von-Guericke University. We hope that the participants enjoyed the conference. The papers chosen for this proceeding were selected by reference to blind reviews and discussions after their respective presentations undertaken by the participants. These papers represent the areas of process modelling, process optimisation, multi-project and process management, Key Performance Indicators, Lean Product Development and others. We would like to thank all those authors and reviewers who have contributed to the preparation of this book. We also thank Ms. E. Hestermann-Beyerle and Ms. B. Kollmar-Thoni from Springer for the smooth and constructive cooperation.

And, after ten years, it is a good practice to hand over the SIG leadership to younger people. I am very happy that Dr.-Ing. Kilian Gericke, University of Luxemburg, and Prof. Dr. Claudia Eckert, The Open University (UK), agreed to co-chair the SIG MMEP. Having known them well for a long time, I have no doubt that they will continue with the fruitful SIG work, of course (and hopefully!) with other aspects than we used to prefer in our time. But what will surely remain is that this our SIG will keep fascinating and challenging and beneficial to all its members.

Let me conclude. It was a highlight to work with you all! Good bye, and Vivat, Crescat, Floreat to our SIG on Modelling and Management of Engineering Processes!

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