EDITORIAL PREFACE

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In July 2010 the previous Editor-in-Chief, Prof. G. Forgionne, asked me to take in charge the function of Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Decision Support System Technology. I assume this function since this date and for this occasion I asked the Editorial Review Board Committee members to freely express their views on DSS Technologies. This issue is comprised of papers on the topics of Models for Collaborative Decision Making Processes and Cases Studies on Decision Support Systems contributed by the editorial board of IJDSST.

I received five papers suitable for this issue. These papers broadly reflect the current research work of their authors. All these authors greatly contribute to the DSS community, but the content of this issue could be seen as very heterogeneous. I think that the heterogeneity of contributions to the DSS field is not harmful since the provided support is really efficient for decision makers.

A new trend proposed by Jankovic, Zaraté et al. (2008) supports decision makers in their Collaborative Decision Making Processes. Cases Studies are also very interesting for researchers in order to learn about real cases and how DSS can be used in real life.

This issue is organized in two sections:

(1) Models for Collaborative Decision Making Processes, and
(2) Cases Studies.

Models for Collaborative Decision Making Processes

The first paper authored by Marija Jankovic and Pascale Zaraté proposes an analytical analysis through discrepancies and analogies in artificial intelligence and engineering design approaches in addressing collaborative decision-making.

The second paper written by Simon Buckingham Shum, Lorella Cannavacciuolo, Anna De Liddo, Luca Iandoli, and Ivana Quinto shows how using social network analysis can support a collective decision-making process.

Cases Studies

The third paper is authored by Carlos E. Escobar-Toledo and Héctor A. Martínez-Berumen, and proposes a strategic development of a decision making support system in a public R&D center.

The fourth paper is written by Daniel J. Power, Roberta M. Roth, and Rex Karsten, and describes decision support for crisis incidents.

The fifth paper, authored by Mary Daly and Frederic Adam, proposes organisational decision support maturity, using cases studies of Irish organisations.

All these contributions provide new trend for Decision Support Systems Technologies.

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REFERENCES


Pascale Zaraté is a Professor at Toulouse 1 Capitole University. She conducts her researches at the IRIT laboratory (http://www.irit.fr). She holds a Ph.D. in Computer Sciences / Decision Support from the LAMSADE laboratory at the Paris Dauphine University, Paris (1991). She also holds a Master degree in Computer Science from the Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse, France (1986); as well as a Bachelors degree Toulouse, France (1982). Pascale Zaraté’s current research interests include: Decision Support Systems; distributed and asynchronous decision making processes; knowledge modelisation; cooperative knowledge based systems; cooperative decision making. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Decision Support System Technology (IGI Global). Since 2000, she is head of the Euro Working Group on DSS (www.euro-online.org). She published several studies and works: one book, edited two books, edited 11 special issues in several international journals, two proceedings of international conferences, 22 papers in several international journals, two papers in national journals, five chapters in collective books, 26 papers in international conferences. She belongs the Editorial Scientific Committee of three International Journals: Journal of Decision System (Lavoisier), ComSIS, Intelligent Decision Technologies (IOSPress). She was chairing the IFIP TC8/WG8.3 conference devoted to Collaborative Decision Making (http://www.irit.fr/CDM08).