

International Congress on Environmental Modelling & Software (iEMSs 2008)

Integrating Sciences and Information Technology for Environmental Assessment and Decision Making

Barcelona, Catalonia, July 7-10, 2008

<http://www.iemss.org/iemss2008>



The International Congress on Environmental Modelling & Software (iEMSs 2008) will incorporate the Fourth Biennial Meeting of the International Environmental Modelling and Software Society.

Previous events and venue location

After the three very successful previous congresses held in Lugano, Switzerland (iEMSs 2002), Osnabrück, Germany (iEMSs 2004) and Burlington, Vermont, USA (iEMSs 2006), the 4th iEMSs congress will be held in Barcelona, Catalonia. iEMSs 2008 is hosted by the Knowledge Engineering & Machine Learning group (KEMLG) of the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) together with the Laboratory of Chemical and Environmental Engineering (LEQUIA), from University of Girona (UdG).

The **congress venue** will be at the Campus Nord of the Technical University of Catalonia, located in the north-western area of the Mediterranean city of Barcelona.

Scope and aims

The aim of the congress is to enhance environmental processes by means of fostering the discussion and interchange of challenges, solutions, ideas, new methods and techniques, and future research lines in environmental modelling & software. The congress joins together several interest groups working in different but complementary features and/or scientific fields in Environmental Modelling, Assessment, Decision Making and Information Technologies. This time, the focus will be stressed on *Integrating Sciences and Information Technology for Environmental Assessment and Decision Making*.

Some topics of interest, but not limited to, could be:

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) contributions to environment management, resource policy development and environmental impact reduction
- The role of ICT in responding to environmental challenges and preventing environmental problems
- The relationship between ICT research development and environmental degradation
- Integration and distribution of ICT applied to environmental issues
- Environmental user as an important actor
- Environmental risk management
- Real-time environment management
- Environmental emergencies management
- Integrated modelling and forecasting
- Adaptive management
- Decision making models and public participation
- Policy and institutional analysis
- Ecosystem management
- Decision support tools and software
- Intelligent Environmental Decision Support Systems (IEDSS)
- Data mining and knowledge discovery in environmental sciences
- Multi-agent systems for environmental domains
- Spatial and temporal reasoning in environmental domains
- Uncertainty in environmental domains
- Novel use of ontologies in environmental domains
- Validation of environmental ICT tools
- Benchmarking for environmental ICT tools

Structure and organisation

The congress will be built around three complementary tracks of **plenary sessions**, **sessions** and **workshops**.

Plenary sessions will be invited talks given by recognised scientists and professionals within the field of the integration of Sciences and Information Technology for Environmental Assessment and Decision Making.

Sessions are thought as traditional conference sessions proposed and organised by one or more scientists, and focused on a concrete subject. Session participants will present their research work, which should be innovative enough either in the techniques and methods developed or in the application field. A formal scheme will be followed in sessions' presentation: 15-20 minutes of presentation and 5 minutes for questions. Sessions will be structured in time slots. The number of time slots assigned to a session will depend on the number of accepted session papers.

Session participants should send their full papers, at due time, for peer-reviewing process managed by session organisers. All accepted papers will be published in the electronic proceedings of the congress (with ISBN).

A selection of the best full papers from all the sessions will be considered to be published, after an extension and additional reviewing period, in one or more special issues of international journals.

Workshops are designed to inspire and foster discussions on most important topics within the field. These workshops follow the innovative track of thematic workshops started in iEMSs 2006. Workshops will be proposed and organized by one or more scientists. Workshop organisers will produce, at due time, a position-paper on the special topic of the workshop exploring opportunities, challenges, solving techniques and/or methods, validation procedures and applications. Workshops' position-papers are reviewed in order to make appropriate comments and suggestions by the scientific committee of the congress. Position papers will be available on-line in advance to let workshop participants to react on the main ideas behind workshop's theme.

In order to devote ample time to discussion, and not to convert them in standard sessions, workshops will be divided in, at least, two time slots: one for presentations and another one for discussion. The aim of the presentation slot is that organisers expose main key ideas behind their position paper (10-15 minutes), and that participants with accepted abstract expose their opinions and complementary points of view about the workshop's topics and/or their main comments on the position paper (5-10 minutes each one).

The aim of the discussion slot is to foster generalised discussion about the ideas shallowly described in the presentation slot. Final outcome of the workshop will be an improved version of the position-paper reflecting the conclusions of the discussion. This improved version will include as co-authors the active participants in the workshop.

Workshop participants should send their abstracts (2 pages at most) at due time, for peer-reviewing process managed by workshop organisers. All position-papers and accepted workshop participant abstracts will be published in the electronic proceedings of the congress (with ISBN).

Updated position papers incorporating the output discussions of the workshops will be considered to be published, after an extension and additional reviewing period, in one or more special issues of international journals.

Timelines

Sessions timeline

Call for session proposals	June 26, 2007
Deadline for submission of session proposals	September 7, 2007
Notification of accepted sessions	September 14, 2007
Call for session papers	September-October, 2007
Deadline for session papers submission	November 30, 2007
Notification of session papers acceptance	January 15, 2008
Final revised camera-ready session papers	April 30, 2008
Sessions at iEMSs 2008	July 7-10, 2008

Workshops timeline

Call for workshop proposals	June 26, 2007
Deadline for submission of workshop proposals	September 7, 2007
Notification of accepted workshops	September 14, 2007
Call for workshop participation	September-October, 2007
Deadline for submission of workshop position papers	December 15, 2007
Notification of workshop position papers comments	December 31, 2007
On-line publication of workshop position papers	January 1, 2008
Deadline for submission of workshop abstracts	January 27, 2008
Notification of workshop abstracts acceptance	February 17, 2008
On-line discussions and work	February-July, 2008
Final revised camera-ready abstracts and position papers	April 30, 2008
Workshops at iEMSs 2008	July 7-10, 2008

Registration and accommodation

Early conference registration	March 16, 2008
Rooms blocked at special rates until	May 31, 2008

Call for workshops and sessions proposals

We address you as a possible contributor to iEMSs 2008 either for organising a workshop or a session. Meetings of iEMSs are joint events integrating different research groups, such as BESAI, ERCIM, ISEM, ISESS, MODSS, TIAS. This diversity among people devoted to environmental research is one of the added values of iEMSs congresses. Thus, we hope that workshop and session proposals will come from all interested groups. Notwithstanding, in order to avoid, as much as possible, overlapping among sessions and among workshops, and/or confusion among participants, some suggestions to join proposals could emerge.

For workshop or session proposals, the following information must be submitted:

- Title of the proposed workshop or session
- Name and affiliation of the organisers
- The designated contact person among organisers, and her/his contact data (e-mail)
- Topics of the session or workshop
- Brief description of the session or workshop

Please submit proposals to iemss2008@lsi.upc.edu by September 7th, 2007

Very best wishes,

Giorgio Guariso
President of iEMSs

Miquel Sànchez-Marrè
Member of iEMSs board and iEMSs 2008 Congress Convenor

Joaquim Comas
Member of iEMSs board and iEMSs 2008 Congress Co-organiser