

November 1, 2016

## ScAIEM Newsletter 2016



Dear Colleagues;

The *Scandinavian Academy of Industrial Engineering (ScAIEM)* professional community is growing stronger. Today, ScAIEM have 22 paying institutional members and with the membership of University of Iceland we cover now all the Nordic countries. Even if we still miss some engineering faculties, primarily in Denmark, we can be proud to claim that we now represent all prominent Nordic institutions in our field, together representing more than 500 scholars. Given that we had our first Nordic Conference as late as in Lund 2013, I think this is remarkable. We hope this positive trajectory will continue, so we break the attendance record at the upcoming ScAIEM conference at Luleå Technical University, November 28-30, 2016.

Industrial Engineering and Management (IEM) is the largest field of engineering education in the Nordic countries. Positioned at the interface between technology and management we are in many ways exactly where many want to be: at an applied research field, addressing issues on innovation, efficiency, business creation and social aspects of engineering and technology. Neither pure technology, nor pure social science. We should be proud and stand up for that. However, in an academic world where cross-disciplinary research always is problematic, we need to define IEM as an academic subject in itself. We need to make the IEM identity explicit so we can explain who we are. For me, the concept of IEM connotes a broad, multidisciplinary field addressing issues of business, management and value creation in engineering and technology based organizations. What does it mean to you?

ScAIEM is still a young organization in a formative phase, but we are pursuing in developing our field. Here are some examples on our current issues:

- **IEM has now been enacted as an engineering subject in the Swedish National statistics.**

Since September 2016 IEM exists in the statistics. This is a small but important result of our lobbying to gain recognition on our own merits, e.g. when we apply for research funds, or upload our papers in DIVA. This time it was possible to add IEM (Industriell ekonomi) as a subfield under Mechanical Engineering, but in the next major revision in Sweden, in 2018, we will push hard to get IEM to become recognized as an engineering

field on equal level as other fields. One ScAIEM project is to push for similar changes in the other Nordic countries, as well as in the OECD statistics.

- **Make the IEM identity explicit**  
One of the strongest experiences from our conferences is the search for a legitimate academic identity. Drawing on the experiences from the Swedish educational assessment and the Finnish report on the IEM in Finland, there are several initiatives under discussion, such as Nordic benchmarking projects on education and research, documentation of the IEM academic history, and academic foresights concerning our future development.
- **ScAIEM PhD Course: Get your paper published**  
Right now, the second edition of the very appreciated, joint PhD Course under the ScAIEM umbrella - "Get your paper published" - is under preparation by Prof Anna Öhrwall Rönnbäck and Prof Eelko Huizingh. If you are interested, reserve the following preliminary dates: February 20-22 in Luleå, May 22-24 at KTH in Stockholm and, August 16-18 in Lund.
- **Announcements of Academic Positions**  
ScAIEM is the perfect channel for reaching all Scandinavian scholars, post docs, and PhD candidates of IEM. Consequently, if you are recruiting; use the ScAIEM web page and the ScAIEM network for marketing, for free.
- **Announcement of PhD Courses and other activities**  
Are you organizing a course you think would interest PhD Candidates outside your own university; ScAIEM is the perfect place for marketing. The same is true for other activities that might be of common IEM interest. I know that the IEM is a thriving community in Scandinavia, where a lot of things is going on. However, we need to spread the word and inform each other.
- **The Fourth Annual ScAIEM-conference: November 28-30**  
The Fourth ScAIEM conference is Organized by the Luleå Technical University (LTU), November 28-30, 2016. Drawing on the good experiences from last years, this year's program is the most ambitious so far, with a number of interesting sessions on research, education, industrial trends, and professional development. See <http://www.ltu.se/scaiem2016> for more information.
- **The Space Innovation Workshop**  
As an add on to the ScAIEM conference, LTU and the City of Kiruna organize a pre-conference workshop addressing Space Innovation, November 25-26 at Space Campus in Kiruna, with high level participants from Swedish Space Corporation and Kiruna City. A

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unique possibility focusing on an area with strong potential for future business. See <http://www.ltu.se/scaiem2016> for more information.

- **The Third Arctic Workshop for PhD Students**

Drawing on the Finnish earlier experiences, we are proud to organized the third ScAIEM PhD workshop at LTU on the day preceding the main conference, November 28. Last years' workshop was a great success, so there is already a big interest to participate this year. Also latest news about ISPIM dissertation award will be presented. See <http://www.ltu.se/scaiem2016> for more information about the Arctic Workshop and <http://ispim.org/publications/ispim-dissertation-award> about ISPIM.

As you see, ScAIEM has fantastic potential! If you have ideas for how to develop and further strengthen our community, please contact me ([mats.engwall@indek.kth.se](mailto:mats.engwall@indek.kth.se)), or any of the other members of the board.

Hope to see you all at LTU in late November!

Mats Engwall, Full Professor  
Chair of Industrial Management, KTH  
Chairman of the Board of ScAIEM

Read more at: **[www.scaiem.org](http://www.scaiem.org)**