

Industrial Engineering and Management (IEM) is the largest field of engineering education in the Nordic countries. Positioned at the interface between technology and management, the concept of IEM connotes an applied, multidisciplinary field addressing issues on innovation, management, value creation and social aspects in engineering and technology based organizations. Neither pure technology, nor pure social science. Join us at ScAIEM to further promote and develop IEM in the Nordic countries!

Newsletter June 9, 2017



Dear Friends;

At the last day of this academic year, we can conclude that 2016/17 was the academic year when the *Scandinavian Academy of Industrial Engineering (ScAIEM)* was definitely established as a professional community and an important influencer for education, research, and PhD studies in Industrial Engineering and Management.

ScAIEM has today 20 institutional members in all the Nordic countries, representing **all** prominent Nordic institutions in our field and together more than 500 management scholars, working at engineering faculties. An important detail (as announced in the previous newsletter), due to ScAIEM, IEM (Industriell ekonomi) is since September 2016 finally recognized in official statistics in Sweden as a subfield under Mechanical Engineering, and possible to select for e.g. publication statistics.

The annual ScAIEM conference, during 2016 organized by Luleå University of Technology (LTU), had over 180 participants, by far breaking previous attendance records. Given that we had our first Nordic Conference as late as in Lund 2013, followed by Aalto 2014 and DTU 2015, this is quite remarkable. We hope the positive trajectory will continue as we meet on Trondheim 2017 when NTNU hosts ScAIEM2017 November 27-29.

The conference report from ScAIEM 2016 and the evaluation showed that participants especially appreciate networking among Nordic peers. This is by far their most important reason for attending the conference. The participants were asked which area they were most interested

in; and the result was an equal distribution of a third each on the three tracks Research, Education, and PhD studies. Among the most beneficial aspects of attending were mentioned:

- “Hearing about the current developments in the area of IEM in all three respects (education, PhD, research) and that they are very similar among all universities.”
- “Provided a basis for future collaboration.”
- “PhD workshop discussions.”
- “I thought it was extremely valuable that so many LTU students participated in all aspects of the conference.”
- “Networking, social aspects, inspiration.”
- “Getting research ideas and networking.”
- “To learn what the other universities are doing in education and research.”
- “Meeting lectures and marketing own textbooks.”
- “Now I know more people from Industrial engineering-inside.”
- “Great session on education! Session leaders [names removed] were awesome. And I really like the keynote speakers. Time to mingle. Learn more about how other universities are providing practical teaching sessions for the students.”
- “Good mix of sessions.”

The different conference seminars spanned over a wide variety of topics, from Student health and “life balance” to Digitalization and Industry4.0, and the conference report highlights participants’ suggestions for themes at future conferences. The seminars were documented by students at LTU, and photos and text files are shared to all participants via the Box file-sharing system.

As an example of networking, **ScAIEM Head of Department Summit** gathered 12 participants from eight universities. The purpose was to create a network to learn from each other and increase collaboration across the IEM departments in the Scandinavian Tech universities. Their discussions highlighted the following common challenges for the Nordic departments hosting IEM activities:

- Research funding: Diversification, excellence funding, quality assurance.
- PhD student issues: Funding, placement, rotation, collaboration.
- Industry collaboration: publishing.
- Performance evaluation: Metrics, Baselines, Quality vs Quantity.
- Strategic positioning in Technical Universities: Subjects in the main organization, ”how to be relevant to the rector”.
- Teaching: Productivity, innovation, resource allocation, relationship to research, IEM programs, Quality vs quantity, education of the future.
- Professional education/lifelong learning.

At the **IEM Program Directors Meeting** at the ScAIEM 2016 conference, the content of IEM educational programs was discussed, especially since the Swedish national evaluation had as a consequence a few programs being shut down, mainly due to insufficient technology content. The balance of mathematics, technology and economics in the educational program was a topic. Others were if ScAIEM could be a platform for setting common standards, the roles for IEM students at the labor market, and the need for industry projects during the education. The “value chain” of courses throughout the study program, and BSc and MSc degrees were discussed, together with the profile for IEM in comparison to students of business administration or mechanical engineering.

The third **ScAIEM Arctic PhD Workshop** at the ScAIEM 2016 conference, built on a more than 20-year-old tradition from Finland, attracted 22 contributions that were presented and discussed in six parallel sessions. This gave a glimpse of future research topics of Nordic IEM.

The format of the ScAIEM conference is still evolving. In addition to all other activities connected, at NTNU in November, we might also have a **ScAIEM Student Meeting** organized the day before the main conference. We, in the ScAIEM board, think this is a fantastic development and hope that our annual conference could be a major attraction for all kinds of networking activities revolving around the IEM field in Northern Europe.

However, 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 activities:

- **A Facebook group** was created at the 2016 conference. Please visit, like and follow at <https://www.facebook.com/scaiem>, and develop the community by posting any discussion topic or event that you feel is relevant. Here you also find photographs from the conference.
- **The 1st ScAIEM PhD Student Workshop** was arranged in Stockholm on April 7.
- In order to establish a distinctive, representative and cool ScAIEM symbol **a logotype competition** will be launched, together with the Nordic IEM students, before this Summer.
- **ScAIEM web site** is being developed and will be launched this summer. (*Psst - take an early look at the [beta version here: http://betascaiem.seodesign.nu](http://betascaiem.seodesign.nu)*)
- **ScAIEM PhD Course “Get your paper published”**: The second edition of the very appreciated, joint PhD Course under the ScAIEM and Produktion2030 umbrella is under preparation. <http://www.p2030graduateschool.se>.
- **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. IEM is a thriving community in the Nordics, and we need to spread the word and inform each other.

- **The Fifth Annual ScAIEM conference: November 27-29 2017, organized by NTNU, Trondheim.** If you have not received the invitation yet, you find it [here](#) (at the conference web site, <http://www.ntnu.edu/scaiem2017>). Please, send the invitation around among your colleagues and bring as many as possible to Trondheim.

ScAIEM has fantastic potential, so if you have any ideas for how to develop and further strengthen our community, please contact me (mats.engwall@indek.kth.se), or any of the other members of the board. Hoping to meet you at social media and at our new web site very soon, and that you reserve the dates for this year's ScAIEM Conference.

Have a nice and relaxing summer and see you all in Trondheim!

Stockholm, June 9, 2017



Mats Engwall, Professor
Chairman of the Board of ScAIEM