

Report of the Fifth TRIZ Future Conference 2005

Denis Cavallucci, president

Introduction

First of all, I shall confess that this exercise to draw a statement of such an event is not a "so easy" task; maybe this will partially explain why it took me several weeks to finalize it. I would like to start with my apologies to all the people that I will not cite, despite the fact that individually all of you have played a key role for the success of TFC. Then, I will continue with a few numbers, because they are here to provide us an image of our evolution, so as a fundamental indication of how we exist throughout worldwide TRIZ associations.

This year, TFC has brought together representatives of 26 countries, with some of these countries represented by more than 10 persons. We also had a total of 130 participants during the 3 days and a percentage relatively equal between Academia (35%), Industry (25%) and Consulting (35%). Then, for the sessions' part, a total of 70 proposals of communications (abstracts) have been received while 37 papers have been accepted for presentations and 12 for posters.

This underline that a continuous evolution of our community became obvious so as the growing interest from newcomers to be part of this multicultural society of TRIZ practitioners.

The organizers

No doubts, the organizing team has once more (as in the previous years) achieved a tremendous work and lead their effort to an obvious success. This year ETRIA wish to thank Jüergen Jantschi for his endless efforts in coordinating enthusiastically this task to manage an ETRIA's TFC.

Aside from Juergen, it is also necessary to thank particularly the efforts of many of his colleagues; they have also their part of responsibility in the success of TFC.

The achievements of this team will overpass good memories of this nice city of Graz and will also exist in our organization's libraries with their proceedings. This publication has been performed with a serious professionalism and will probably landmark TFC's history.

The tutorials performers

A world wide community open to new comers is also a community who is ready to pedagogically present some grounding elements from TRIZ body of knowledge. This year, Ellen DOMB and Sergei IKOVENKO have brilliantly played this role with (as it was required) a presentation of basics (from Ellen side) and advanced (from Sergei's side) that must reliably present what is from TRIZ's theory and not from a personalized interpretation.

Both of them have successfully completed this task and we shall note that even in Ellen's basics, some experienced teachers attended not for learning TRIZ but for understanding a proposed pedagogy in teaching TRIZ. ETRIA do want to thank them also for their effort and dedicated time. Finally, the fact that we have called Substance-Field tutorial as "advanced" has sometimes provoked smiles in the audience, but let's remember that in ever talking about the matrix we have led newcomers to think that only the matrix could have served as introduction to TRIZ. Due to Sergei's involvement, we now know that substance field may also be a way to attract people to TRIZ from another angle than the usual ones.

The keynote speakers

Any conference has its keynote speakers! This year, as in continuity from previous sessions, ETRIA has asked to original initiatives or thoughts of importance to draw a statement to TFC's audience and share with our members (and non-members registered). Let's thank 3 persons for their contribution:

Laurent LELAIT, head of innovation group at Institute of Energy Research in Electricité De France (EDF). His vision of TRIZ uses in the context of a research activity, beyond traditional inventive problem solving, has shown us the important key role that TRIZ can play in forecasting new

technologies and identify bottlenecks and help to build strong patent strategies. We have also learned that OTSM-TRIZ has helped them to tackle complex tasks in their innovative practices.

Larry SMITH, recently retired from Ford Motor Company after having occupied many heading positions, has brought his vision of how TRIZ may be favoured in its evolution in our societies by identifying resistances to TRIZ progresses. Not only stating on this fact, Larry has also share with us his vision on how to face this situation and provide the audience with thoughts related to potential solutions to this fact.

Finally Simon LITVIN reports us from a promising meeting between a group of well known TRIZ masters and experts aiming at continuing what was formerly organized by Altshuller and called "TRIZ readings". This reflexion/action group will regularly meet (Simon reports) in order to propose and share regarding evolutions of TRIZ.

The open panel discussion

For the first time in their history, the three main international TRIZ associations were represented at the same place by their president (Larry SMITH, Mark BARKAN and Denis CAVALLUCCI). The organizers of TRIZ Future Conference have decided to take this opportunity to propose a panel discussion with the audience on the following subject: How do we respectively see TRIZ in relation with its super systems?

After this discussion panel, the decision has been taken to create a task force aiming at constructing elements that would help and favour TRIZ evolution. Regarding the milestone of such a project, the three presidents have had a meeting stating on the main elements to be constructed by this group. These results can be read in the report (minutes) of this meeting through communication channels of all 3 associations.

The Chairmen

Each sessions of the presentation's part were divided this year in two different rooms (as in Strasbourg in TFC2002). But an efficient session could not happen without the involvement of chairmen. This year, they were here to help the organizers to animate/drive the debates, pay attention to the timing respect.

The Authors

Without naming all authors, I would like to remind ETRIA community that their contribution is most of the success of TFC. Their written article and their time and involvement to present their contribution will definitely leave a trace of a year evolution of TRIZ world. This is why ETRIA will try in the next years to progress in the direction of raising the quality level of these contributions. Moreover, starting from 2005, we have opened the website's facilities to search and download from all previous TFC's the article about a given subject and upon a specific classification.

The members of Global Coordination

ETRIA is constituted of individuals that upon their level of involvement in our community will play a key role in our evolution. Levels of involvements can go from simply registering to ETRIA, up to organizing a TFC in your country and thus become a board member for several years.

In between, several ways are proposed to each of you to contribute to ETRIA's evolution: from simply proposing to share your thoughts and experience's results through a contribution in a TFC (thus participating to the event by presenting your paper), to propose to the board members the constitution of a working group and lead the efforts of its deliverables to our community.

Actually, I wish to remind that 3 working groups are in action, and a fourth one is under constitution:

- Working Group 1: Mapping education/universities practices and entities. (Please contact Gaetano Cascini);
- Working Group 2: Feasibility of scientific orientations for ETRIA. (Please contact Denis Cavallucci);
- Working Group 3: Organizing the redistribution of ETRIA knowledge. (Please contact Sergio Lorenzi or Giacomo Bersano);

Working Group 4: Trans-association group in coordination with AI and MATRIZ: Definition of TRIZ body of knowledge. (This group is under constitution).

The next organizers

After all, I will end with a short look into the future; our colleagues from Belgium (Prof. Joost Duflou and Simon Dewulf) are now facing with an important challenge: pursue the evolution of TFC. And as we have understood from past sessions, the quantity will not necessarily build the quality, this is why we will try to both maintain ETRIA's community size while rising the quality level of the proposed contributions; undoubtedly an interesting challenge for our colleagues from Belgium.

On behalf of the board of ETRIA, I do look forward to see all of you in Belgium in less than a year now!