

Welcome Message from the POMS President

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is a great privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the 2012 POMS Conference in Chicago. As I write this message I already know that this will probably be the largest Conference in our history. Even though largest does not always mean best, it does show that our annual conference is seen by our members as a great opportunity to meet face-to-face, discuss the topics we so passionately work on, exchange notes but also thoroughly enjoy good times together. For our young colleagues our conference is an ideal way to join the larger community, construct a network, and hunt for a suitable job.



POMS is increasingly the Society of choice for our members who truly come from all over the world. This makes our conferences even more important. They are the crossroads where different Operations Management cultures can blend and mutually reinforce one another.

Organizing a large conference like this requires huge effort and dedication from lots of volunteers. We can rely on an extraordinary organizing committee lead by Christopher Tang (General Chair), Kumar Rajaram (Program Chair), Vikram Tiwari (Scheduling Committee Chair), Vinayak Deshpande (Doctoral Consortium Chair), Jack Kanet (Emerging Scholars Program Chair), Laurens Debo (Local Arrangements Committee Chair), Nagesh Murthy (Vice President Meetings), Sushil Gupta (Executive Director), Shailesh Kulkarni (Associate VP Sponsorship), and Tobias Schoenherr (Proceedings Coordinator). We are very grateful to them.

The conference theme “Socially Responsible Operations” makes me especially happy for several reasons. First, most of my work over the last 20 years fits under this category. Second, I am truly happy that this topic finally receives the attention it deserves, from boardrooms to our research interests. Third, we should be proud that POMS and its flagship journal POM have pioneered this topic in the OM community and given it attention long before others did. Fourth, the theme of the Conference could be federating young researchers with more seasoned ones, business people and policy makers with academics, and so on. It is a great subject to show our field has things to say in today’s world, i.e. it is highly relevant to our profession and our Society. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I would like to express the hope that all of us as Production and Operations Management professionals are concerned that our operations be “Socially Responsible”, in our personal as well as our professional lives.

See you all in Chicago!

Warm regards,

Luk N. Van Wassenhove,

President, Production and Operations Management Society

Henry Ford Chair in Manufacturing, INSEAD