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Recommended Citation

Cherrington, J. Owen, "PANEL 4 EVENT-DRIVEN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES AND ISSUES" (1993). *ICIS 1993 Proceedings*. 33.
<http://aisel.aisnet.org/icis1993/33>

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PANEL 4

EVENT-DRIVEN BUSINESS SOLUTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES AND ISSUES

Panel Chair: J. Owen Cherrington, Brigham Young University

Panelists: William E. McCarthy, Michigan State University
David P. Andros, Consultant
Richard Roth, Price Waterhouse
Eric L. Denna, Brigham Young University

In 1982, McCarthy proposed changing the architecture of accounting systems around business events rather than a chart of accounts. Several papers have demonstrated the theoretical viability of McCarthy's ideas since (e.g., Armitage 1984; Denna and McCarthy 1987). Furthermore, McCarthy's proposal appeared to provide a foundation for establishing business information systems without organizational boundaries.

Recently, a variety of organizations have begun refining and implementing the event-driven concepts to guide the development of business solutions that help specify

- how business processes are defined and reengineered,
- how organizations are structured,
- how information technology is utilized, and
- how business organization and individual performance is measured.

Event-driven solution concepts provide a catalyst for addressing all four aspects of the solution domain to facilitate continual improvement in an organization's effort to achieve its mission and objectives.

The purpose of the panel is to discuss the experience of those actually implementing, teaching, and doing research on McCarthy's concepts in organizations and universities. The panel will include a discussion of the impact of the event-driven concepts on the roles of accounting and IT professionals in developing business solutions and in coordinating accounting and IT teaching and research. The panel will also discuss the hurdles in commercializing the event-driven concepts.

The panel participants include:

- William E. McCarthy, Arthur Andersen & Co. Alumni Professor of Information Systems at Michigan State University.
- David P. Andros, former IBM Director of Business Management Solutions. Before leaving IBM to form his own consulting company, Andros was the CIO for all Business Management Solutions worldwide. He is co-author of the new book *Event-Driven Business Solutions: Today's Revolution in Business and Information Technology*.
- Richard Roth, managing partner of the Geneva practice unit of Price Waterhouse. Roth has implemented several event-driven technical solutions in both the public and private sector.
- Eric L. Denna, Warnick/Deloitte & Touche Faculty Fellow at Brigham Young University's School of Accountancy and Information Systems. Denna is the lead author of the new book *Event-Driven Business Solutions: Today's Revolution in Business and Information Technology*.

The panel will be moderated by J. Owen Cherrington, Director of the Information Systems Group at Brigham Young University's School of Accountancy and Information Systems.

REFERENCES

Armitage, H. *Linking Management Accounting Systems With Computer Technology*. The Society of Management Accountants of Canada, 1984.

Denna, E. L., and McCarthy, W. E. "An Events Accounting Foundation for DSS Implementation." In C. W. Holsapple and A. B. Whinston (Eds.), *Decision Support Systems: Theory and Application*, Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1987.

McCarthy, W. E. "The REA Accounting Model: A Generalized Framework for Accounting Systems in a Shared Data Environment." *The Accounting Review*, July 1982, pp. 554-577.

PANEL 5

INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN JAPAN: EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND PRACTICE

Panel Chair: Richard Watson, University of Georgia

Panel Co-Chair: Jiro Kokuryo, Keio University

Panelists:

Practice:	Kazuya Matsudaira, Pride Inc. Shigeo Mori, Ajinomoto System Techno Corporation
Education:	Ryutaro Manabe, Bunkyo University Haruo Takagi, Keio University
Research:	Osam Sato, Tokyo Keizai University Tetsuya Uchiki, Toyo University Monta Nakajima, Bunkyo University

While interest in the international aspects of IS research is expanding, very little is known about IS in Japan. This panel is an introduction to IS in Japan and describes the present Japanese situation in three parts: practice, education, and research. The panelists come from Japanese universities and IS consulting companies.

PRACTICE

The IS practitioners on the panel will discuss **SUIT: Strategic Use of Information Technology**. Japanese management believes it has to cast off its old **KIMONO** and start wearing a modern **SUIT**. They are forced to make important decisions that have to be instantaneous. Their companies' survival totally depends on the results of these decisions in today's unpredictable economic environment. **SUIT** has become the key to successful business in recent Japan. The IS department is required to adapt to both rapid changes in its company and technological advancement. Based on thirty years business experience in over 100 Japanese major companies, the panelists will talk about:

- How Japanese top management (CEOs) are wearing **SUIT** instead of wearing **KIMONO**.
- The methodology used to reengineer business processes.
- Why super big **SUIT** projects are still successful when lead by project managers who belong to user departments.
- What is a user-oriented **SUIT** project.
- How user analysts act the role of systems analysts.
- The ultimate missions of future IS departments.

EDUCATION

The education panelists will explain Japanese university education in IS and propose a model curriculum that emphasizes real usage of computers as components of IS as well as human and social aspects. The proposed curriculum aims at filling demands for IS professionals in industry and will be compared to the model curricula proposed by **BCS/IFIP**, **ACM**, and **DPMA**.

RESEARCH

The research panelists will discuss the state of the art, characteristics, and future directions of Japanese IS research. Japanese MIS research started in 1967, the year that a mission consisting of **VIPs** in Japanese government and business was