Panel 1 Information Systems Frontiers: Emerging Vistas

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INFORMATION SYSTEMS FRONTIERS:
EMERGING VISTAS

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Information systems (IS) are fast emerging as critical resources to be leveraged for organizational productivities in most business, social, and economic enterprises. The success of an enterprise is largely dependent on how its information resources are designed, operated, and managed. Consequently, research and development (R & D) in IS/IT has acquired new levels of significance in the academia, industry, and consumer communities. The rapid outreach of IS technology to numerous application domains and the contributions of other basic disciplines such as computer science, economics, engineering and cognitive science, for instance, have combined to engineer new linkages which couple IS with (1) applications across domains and with (2) supporting or related disciplines. The interface areas among the basic disciplines and IS are developing at an incredible speed and this development is largely due to the transformation of IT toward a networked world and its effects on global communications and economies.

This growth clearly points toward the timeliness and appropriateness of a discussion by a panel comprised of eminent academicians and distinguished professionals from the industry who have made, and are making, pioneering impacts on the state-of-the-art IS/IT and their applications in a wide range of current and emerging vistas. This will indeed set the tone and pace of research and practice in IS/IT and allied disciplines in the years to come. The panel will achieve this by (1) exploring the multiple frontiers of the emerging IS/IT field, (2) bringing innovative research and practice on all aspects of IS/IT from analytical, behavioral, and technological perspectives, (3) highlighting the creativity at the emerging multidisciplinary interfaces leading to new frontiers in IS/IT research, and (4) focusing on the mutually sustaining relationships and the driving forces between academia and industry in the fast transforming and rapidly advancing world of IS/IT. Motivated by the unlimited possibilities for a significant cross-fertilization of ideas and an entirely novel focus on the future of IS/IT that can be achieved from the vision of a high profile panel, a discussion is presented with the following objectives: (1) to bring the collective awareness of the research and practitioner communities to the focal developments emerging at the frontiers of IS/IT, their enormous potential in fundamentally transforming the world of IS/IT and the communities served by them, and to point to challenges and opportunities in the road ahead, (2) to highlight the impact of synergies derived from cross-disciplinary efforts (such as computer science, MIS, telecommunications, economics, operations research, etc.) on creating cutting-edge technologies and solutions for a wide range of information support needs, (3) to identify the tremendous potential of the symbiotic relationships between academia and industry as evidenced in the current frontier developments derived through collaboration and mutual enhancements in extending IS/IT to hitherto uncharted domains, (4) to present a clear vision
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for the future (immediate and up to the year 2005 or 2010), and (5) to sketch effective transfer paths in realizing this vision in the workplace through innovations and inventions.

The objective in constituting a distinguished panel to discuss the proposed subject is to bring together different significant perspectives and knit them into a cohesive whole to both stimulate critical thinking in the community and produce a strong, lasting impact on their research and developmental efforts in the years to come. Given the critical importance of the subject, the panel will yield visions from three broad perspectives: (1) academic research, (2) industrial innovations and inventions, and (3) impacts of pioneering works from the academia, industry, and their collaborations as viewed by leading research funding agencies.