

## Outstanding List of Keynote Speakers to WOSC 2014

Ibagué, Colombia 15-17 October

The organisation of WOSC 2014 is making extraordinary progress thanks to the valuable contributions of many people across the world and commitment of the University of Ibagué. Its aim of contributing to a deeper appreciation of systems and cybernetics at the global and local levels has got the support of a powerful group of keynote speakers. Humberto Maturana, Chile's National Science Award in recognition for his work towards an understanding of living systems (autopoiesis), has worked together with Ximena Dávila, for the past 15 years, in a paradigm of cultural biology, which is a significant contribution to processes of cultural transformation. Both of them are sharing with Congress participants these developments. Dario Rodriguez, from Chile, will further develop the idea of autopoiesis from a sociological and organisational perspective, following the work of the German sociologist and systems thinker Niklas Luhmann. Rodriguez is author of several books in this theme. Fernando Flores, regarded as a world class expert in how people work together and co-author of books such as "Understanding Computers and Cognition", "Disclosing New Worlds" and "Building Trust" will bring to the Congress political, managerial and philosophical depth. Flores was the initiator of the Cybersyn Project in Chile, which will be discussed by Eden Medina, from the United States, author of the book "Cybernetic Revolutionaries" and by Raul Espejo, Operational Director of this project and also co-author of "Organizational Systems; Managing Complexity with the Viable System Model" and many other publications. Cybersyn was the invention of Stafford Beer; Allenna Leonard has contributed to the dissemination of his work over decades and in particular in this Congress she will discuss another of Beer's inventions, Team Syntegrity. Economics is perhaps the most influential body of knowledge in governmental policy-making. Geoff Mulgan has contributed to policy-making at the highest levels in the UK, offering an often forgotten systemic perspective, which has been captured by his books on power and capitalism. This link of systems think to policy is particularly significant for our Congress. Clas-Otto Wene, a physicist and advisor to the Swedish Government in aspect of energy and nuclear waste management, will contribute a powerful alternative, grounded in second order cybernetics, self-organisation and organisational learning, to traditional economic arguments about energy technology learning. Last but not least Carlos Gershenson, from Mexico, will share his work in aspect of self-organisation as crystallised in his PhD thesis "Design and Control of Self-Organising Systems"; he offers a powerful contribution of the new generations to the future of Systems and Cybernetics.