The management of technology continues to develop as an important field of inquiry encompassing numerous disciplines in engineering and social sciences. This year's sessions address two very different and yet equally important dimensions in the field. The first, which is more oriented towards the practice of technology management, concentrates on some of the challenges related to project management. The second session is somewhat more general and global in that it focuses on some ongoing and emerging issues in the field.

In the session, Tapani Kilpi looks in software product management and investigates ways to improve the product development process based on an experimental case study conducted in Finland. The paper underlines clearly some meaningful characteristics to look for to improve the SPM process of an organization. In the second paper, Louis Ma and his colleagues adopt a strategic alignment perspective to the study of successful management of information technology. Based on results from an empirical study, success factors are identified along four alignment types namely the business-strategy led type, the conservative type, the organization led type, and the technology led type. The paper by Hans Thamhain reviews some of the tools and methods for managing complex projects. His work, based on a field study of 62 project teams, allows to identify some of the new challenges project managers must face.

In the second session, Morley Lipsett draws a parallel between theories of innovation and theories of physics. He looks specifically at the possible contribution of the linear model, of the chain link model, and of the quantum model from both classical and quantum physics and their theoretical implications on the innovation process. The second paper by George Scott reports on the results he compiled from two surveys aimed at evaluating the importance of MOT issues for managers, technology policy makers and academic researchers. Special attention is brought to new product development issues. Hee-Dong Yang and Robert Mason reflect on how the proliferation of Internet use may affect the visibility of the processes in the information value chain. They argue that because of the increase in visibility, managers may need to look toward increasing their emphasis on ‘pull’ type information systems rather than the ‘push’ systems of the past. The last paper by Louis A. Lefebvre and Elisabeth Lefebvre examines the virtual economy as the emergence of a new paradigm and its implications for the new governance, firm and industrial restructuring, and social distancing.