

**Syed Qadir—Introduction for the Multi-Sector Crisis
Management Workshop
Anywhere, Anytime, Anysize, Any Signal**

**January 14, 2002
8:15 am**

Good Morning!

(LONG PAUSE - audience response: settling in seats: good morning)

Welcome!

(PAUSE - audience settling in)

Welcome to the Multi-Sector Crisis Management Consortium Workshop titled “Anywhere, Anytime, Any Size, Any Signal” on Scalable Remoter Information Sensing and Communication Systems.

(PAUSE)

My name is Syed Qadir, Executive Director of the National Response Center located at the U.S. Coast Guard Command and Control Center at Buzzards Point, Washington D.C.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

I am the Acting Chair of the Multi-Sector Crisis Management Consortium founded in July 2000. As Chair, I am pleased to welcome you to the First of a Series of Workshops hosted by the Consortium on the synergy of sensors and supercomputers.

Nearly two years ago, several of us in the field of crisis management recognized a need to get people together. It was clear that amazing technologies were available to aid crisis response, but that those technologies, because they were spread out and fragmented among the private, government, academic, international, and nonprofit organizations, and were not being coordinated. Since its formation, the Consortium has attempted to break down communication barriers and bring these diverse sectors together between these various sectors to make sure everyone is working together and using the best tools in the best ways to efficiently and safely manage and respond to crises.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

With these goals and objectives in mind, we turn first to sensors and supercomputers, as a topic of great importance and a telling example for the need for collaboration and sharing. Data is of little use without tools to aggregate, analyze, communicate, and apply the data. Supercomputers and communication technology, on the other hand, capable of organizing and distributing vast amounts of information, are also of little use without accurate and timely data, thus inspiring the title for this first workshop.

This workshop has brought together representatives of multiple sectors and diverse backgrounds. Sitting among you, of course, are top people in the fields of sensors and supercomputers, but there are also experts in other sectors and areas ranging from lasers to languages; disinfection to disasters; governing a state to global communication; chemical defense to collaboration; biogeochemistry to broadband data devices; wireless security to water ecology.

With this brief introduction, we hope that you, with your varied perspectives, your combined creativity, and wide-ranging knowledge will illuminate new ideas and applications, identify and propose solutions to current challenges, and envision the future of data collection and analysis technology—that ultimately you will expand the field of sensors and supercomputers for global peace and prosperity and democracy.

(BRIEF PAUSE)

Once again, welcome.

Our first speaker is George Markowsky, chair of the Computer Science Department at the University of Maine. He is one of the founders of the Multi-Sector Crisis Management Consortium. He is an expert in agent-based computing, and author of 69 papers and 6 books on various aspects of computing.

George...