July 22, 2012

Dear Attendees:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the IEEE Power & Energy (PES) General Meeting of 2012. With over 500 different organizations represented from over 50 countries, this truly embodies an unparalleled global collaboration of the brightest minds in industry and academia.

This year we have a record-breaking conference with 1,289 accepted publications, critically-peer-reviewed by 21 technical committees. This week we have five Super Sessions planned, in which 55 industry experts will be sharing practical experiences and lessons learned in their respective fields. We are also offering 170 technical sessions, 68 of which will be panels. The topics range broadly and cover interests in technical innovations, policy, infrastructure and workforce, all of which were selected to be of global interest, highly stimulating, and thought-provoking. These topics span from developments and experiences in fields related to power generation, transmission, distribution, end-use, and of course, smart grid. Additionally, we will have many great tutorials and workshops taking place throughout the entire week.

As the General Chair of this conference, I would like to thank all the members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), the 200-strong army of volunteers, and the PES staff, all of whom have worked tirelessly on this conference. Special gratitude goes out to the host utility, SDG&E, for the large resources that were provided for this conference and the conference Platinum, Gold and Silver financial supporters. I also would like to extend a special thank you to my friend, and our Vice Chair, Bill Torre for all his help on this conference.

As the Technical Program Coordinator, I would like to thank the PES Technical Council, the Technical Committee Program Chairs (TCPC), the Panel and Technical Session Chairs, the reviewers who had to accommodate the record-breaking submissions and the 1567 presenting authors and panelists whose contributions have culminated in an unsurpassed wealth of information generated for this conference.

Finally, I would like to welcome you to San Diego, America’s Finest city, but the one with the most boring forecast: beautiful weather all year-round with an average daily temperature of 70.5°F (21.4°C)!

Please enjoy the conference and the city of San Diego. I will be all over the conference throughout the week and would like to personally meet and warmly welcome each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Nicholas C. Abi-Samra, P.E.
General Chair and Technical Program Coordinator