

## **Module 1: Integrating Social and Technical Systems**

# Overview and Expected Outcomes – Module 1

## ■ Overview

- ◆ Welcome and overview
- ◆ The “big picture”
- ◆ Social and technical framework
- ◆ Exercise: Focus on the Seven Wastes and the 5 S’s
- ◆ Sample Socio-Tech Implementation
- ◆ Exercise: Cellular Design Socio-Tech Analysis
- ◆ Conclusion

## ■ Expected outcomes

- ◆ Awareness of shifts in social and technical systems over time
- ◆ Understanding of the interdependency between social and technical systems
- ◆ Identification of potential “guiding principles” for designing, implementing and sustaining change in social and technical aspects of new work systems

# The “Big Picture”

## Social Systems

## Technical Systems

### Craft Production

Decentralized Enterprises  
Mastery of Craft

Custom Manufacture  
Specialized Tools

### Mass Production

Vertical Hierarchies  
Scientific management

Assembly Line  
Interchangeable Parts

### Knowledge-Driven Work

Network Alliances  
Team-Based Work Systems

Flexible Specialization  
Information Systems

Adapted from: “Knowledge-Driven Work: Unexpected Lessons from Japanese and United States Work Practices” (Oxford University Press, 1998)

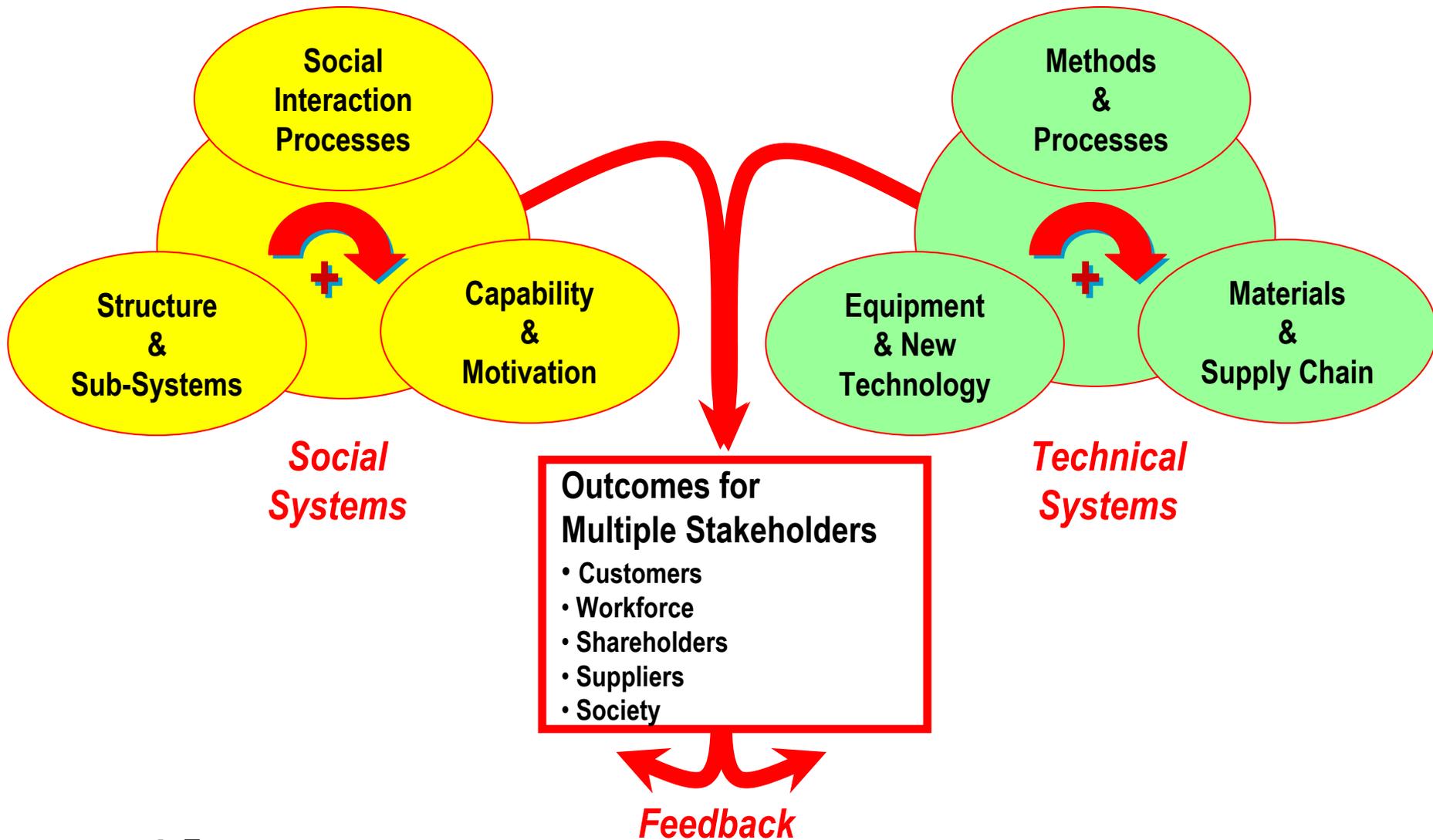


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# Sample Social System Transformation Initiatives

- Socio-Technical Work Systems . . . . . Semi-autonomous teams
  - ◆ 1950s-1980s
- Employee Involvement/QWL . . . . . EI/QWL groups (off-line)
  - ◆ Late 1970s-1990s
- Total Quality Management . . . . . Quality circles (off-line)
  - ◆ Early 1980s-1990s
- Re-engineering . . . . . Work-out events (off-line)
  - ◆ 1990s
- Six Sigma . . . . . Black belt let project teams (off-line)
  - ◆ 1990s-present
- Lean Production/Enterprise Systems . . . . . Lean production teams/Integrated product & Process teams
  - ◆ 1950s-present

# Social and Technical Systems Framework: Delivering Value to Multiple Stakeholders



# Focus on Social Systems

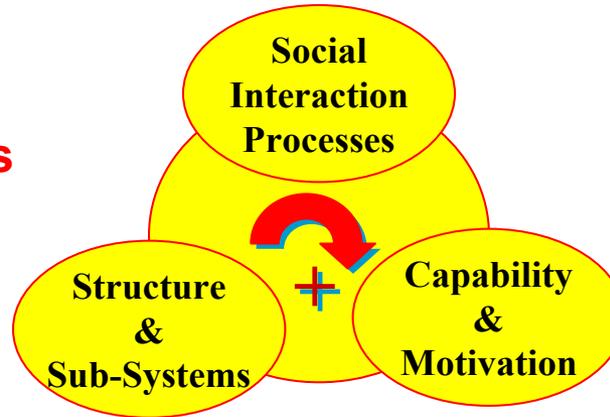
## Structure & Sub-Systems

### ■ Structure

- ◆ Groups
- ◆ Organizations
- ◆ Institutions

### ■ Sub-Systems

- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Information
- ◆ Rewards & reinforcement
- ◆ Selection & retention
- ◆ Learning and feedback
- ◆ Conflict resolution



## Social Interaction Processes

- Leadership
- Negotiations
- Problem-solving
- Decision-making
- Partnership

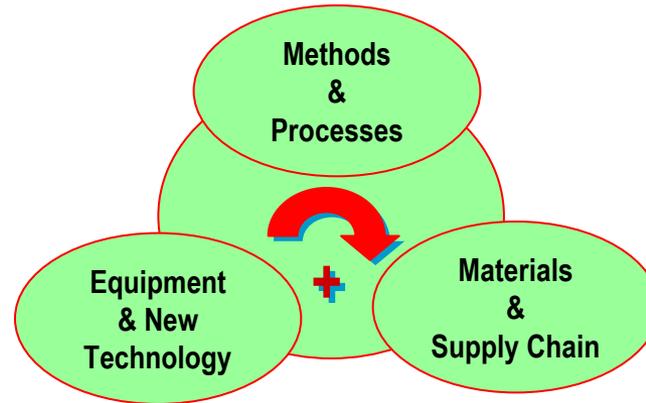
## Capability & Motivation

- Individual knowledge, skills & ability
- Group stages of development
- Fear, satisfaction and commitment

# Focus on Technical Systems

## Equipment & New Technology

- Equipment and machinery
- Physical infrastructure
- Information technology
- Nano-technology, bio-technology, and other frontiers of science



## Methods & Processes

- Job design/office design
- Work flow/process mapping methods
- Value stream mapping
- Constraint analysis
- Statistical Process Control (SPC)
- System optimization and decomposition methods

## Materials & Supply Chain

- Interchangeable parts and mass production systems
- Just-In-Time delivery (JIT) systems
- Synchronous material flow systems
- e-commerce

# Exercise: The Seven Wastes and the Five S's

## The Seven Wastes

- ◆ Over Production
- ◆ Waiting
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Inventory
- ◆ Processing
- ◆ Motion
- ◆ Defects

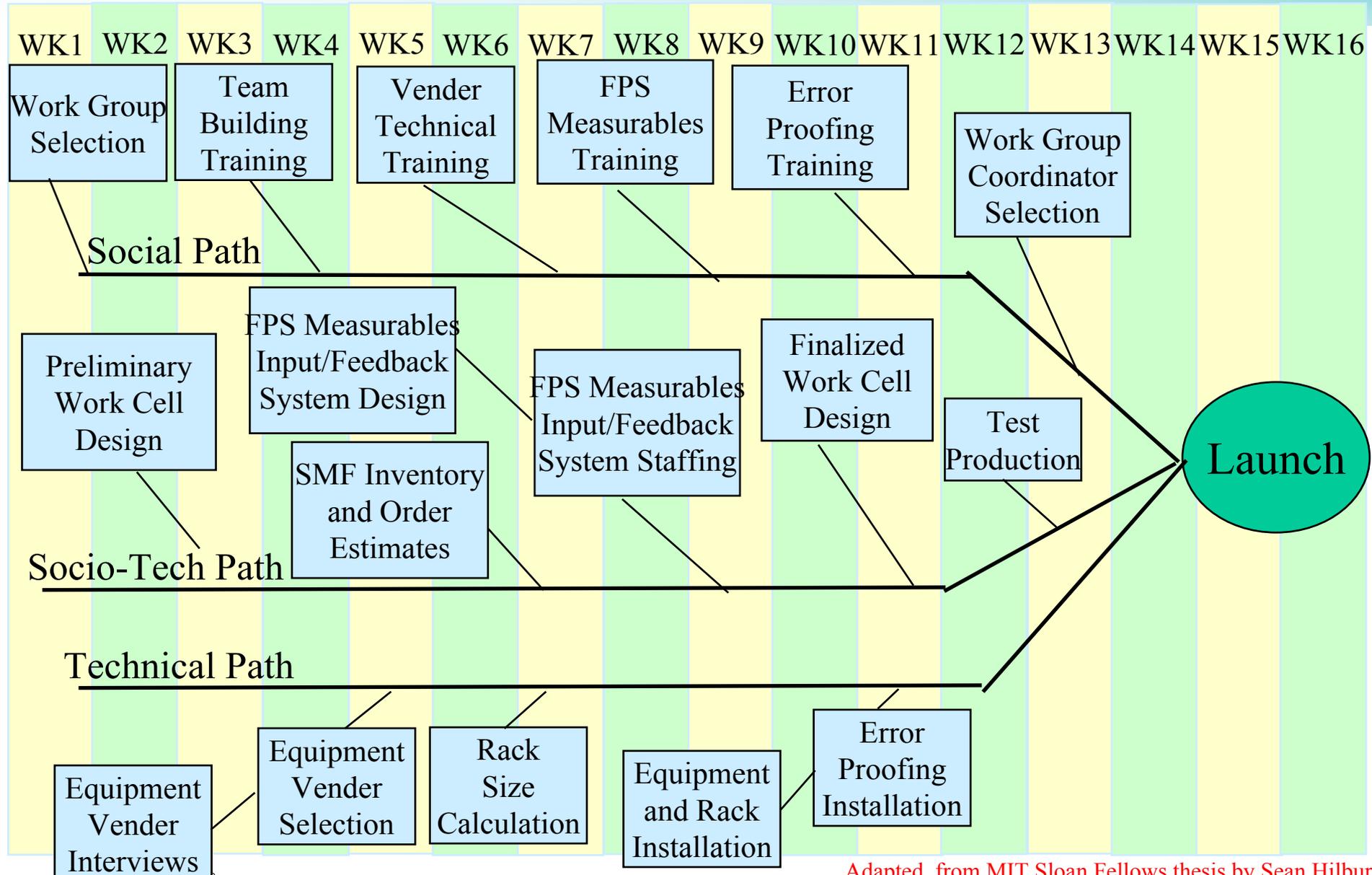
## The Five S's

- Simplify or Sort
- Straighten or Simplify
- Scrub or Shine
- Stabilize or Standardize
- Sustain or Self-Discipline

**How are social and technical systems interdependent when it comes to addressing the Seven Waste?**

**How are they interdependent when it comes to the 5S's?**

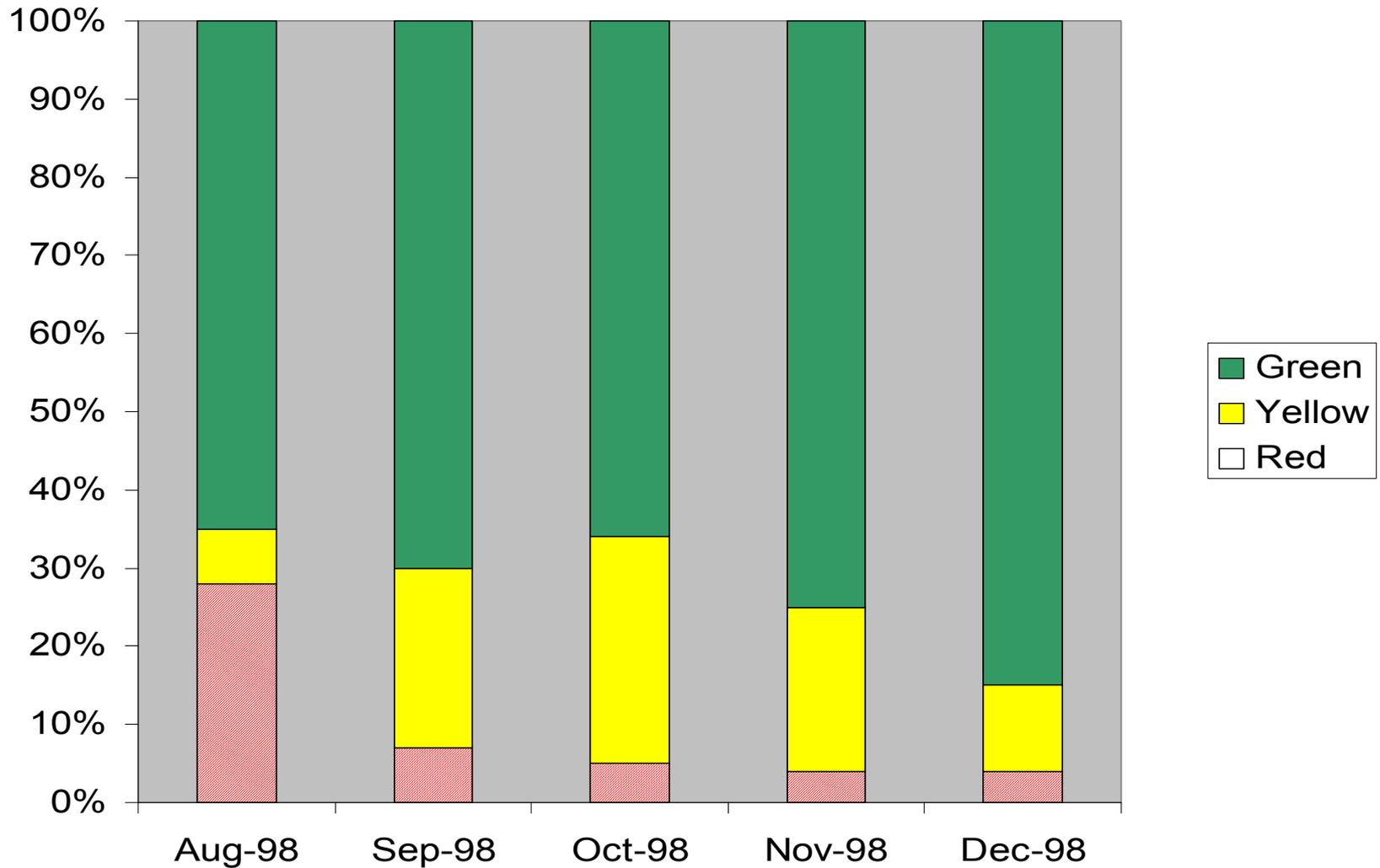
# Sample Socio-Tech Implementation



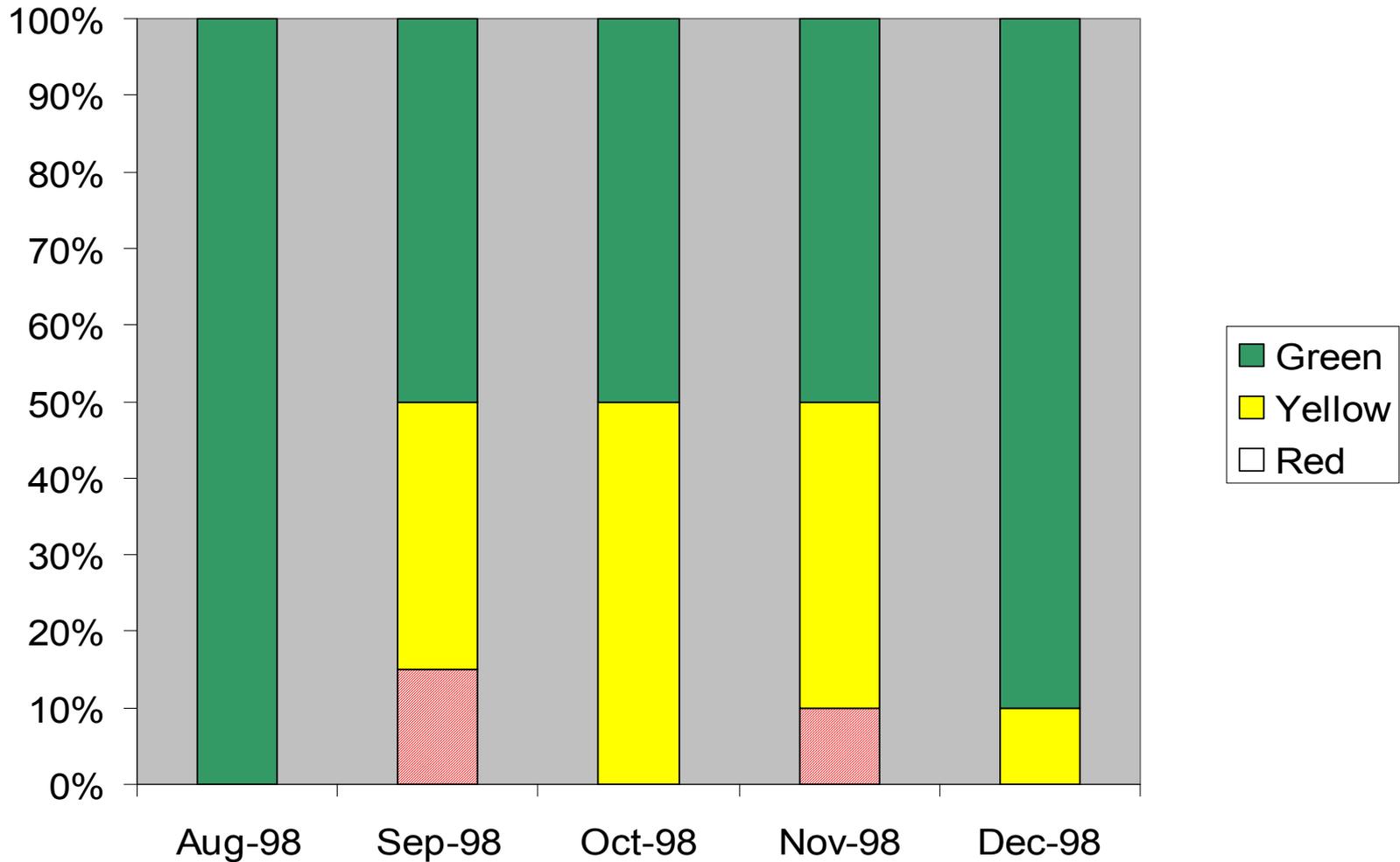
Adapted from MIT Sloan Fellows thesis by Sean Hilburt



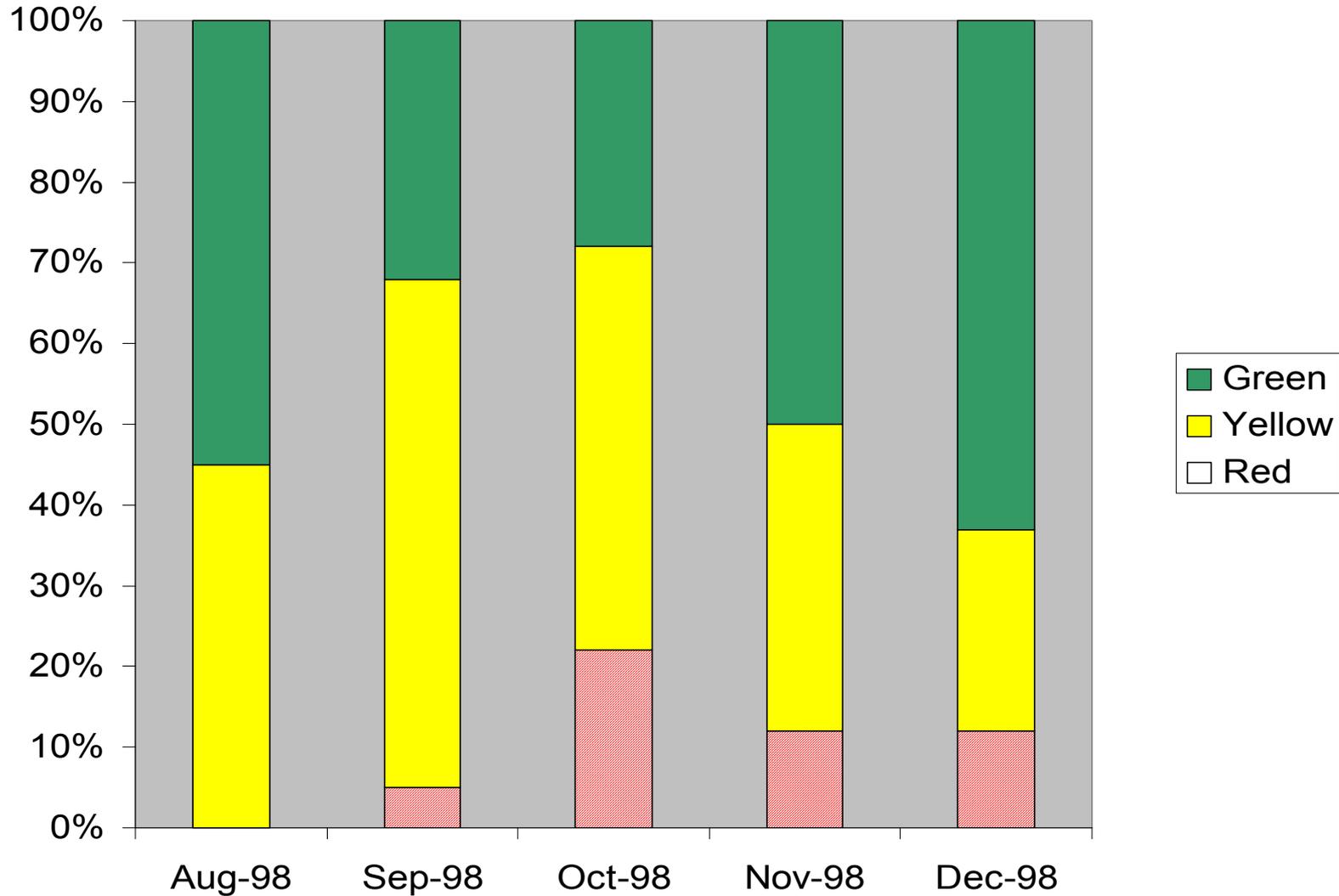
# Data on Technical Milestones



# Data on Social Milestones



# Socio-Tech Data



# Exercise: Cellular Manufacturing Socio-Tech Analysis

## Step 1: Group Formation and Stakeholder Analysis

Form small groups of 2-3 people (individuals at remote locations may link by phone), study the “current state” and “desired state” illustrations on a hypothetical cellular manufacturing intervention (next slide), and list stakeholders involved in your phase of this intervention.

*Note: Some groups will be assigned to “Preparing,” “Implementing,” and “Sustaining” phases of this intervention*

## Step 2: Social Systems

Identify the most important social system changes in this work system that are relevant to your phase of the intervention.

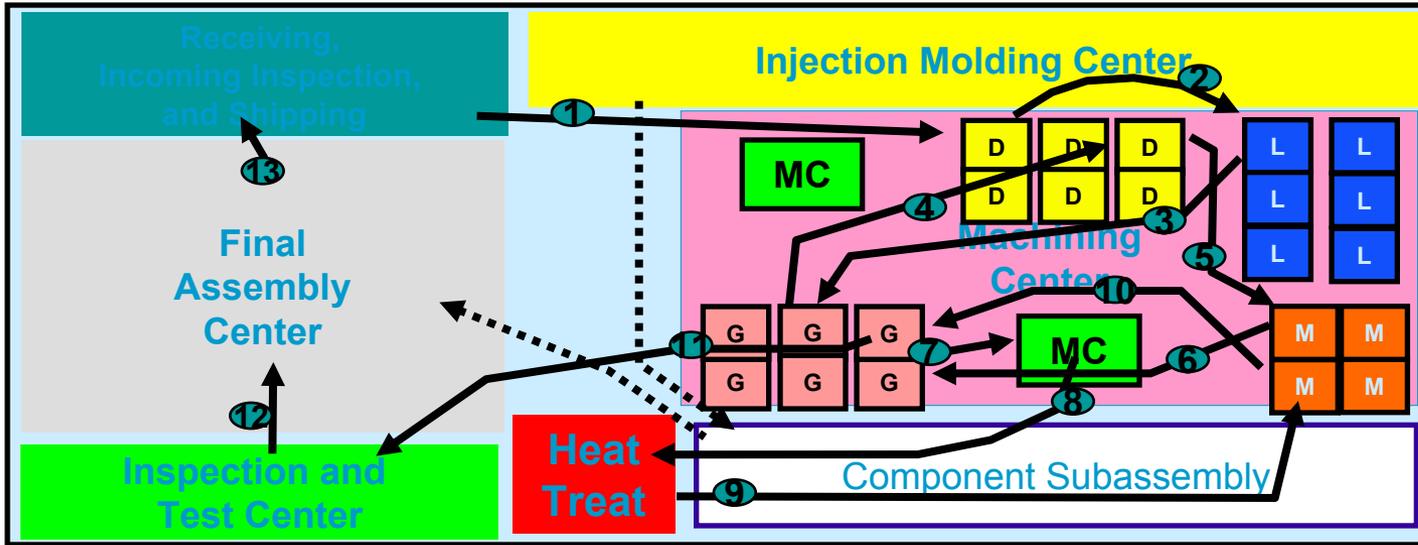
## Step 3: Technical Systems

Identify the most important technical changes in this work system that are relevant to your phase of the intervention.

## Step 4: Integration and Guiding Principles

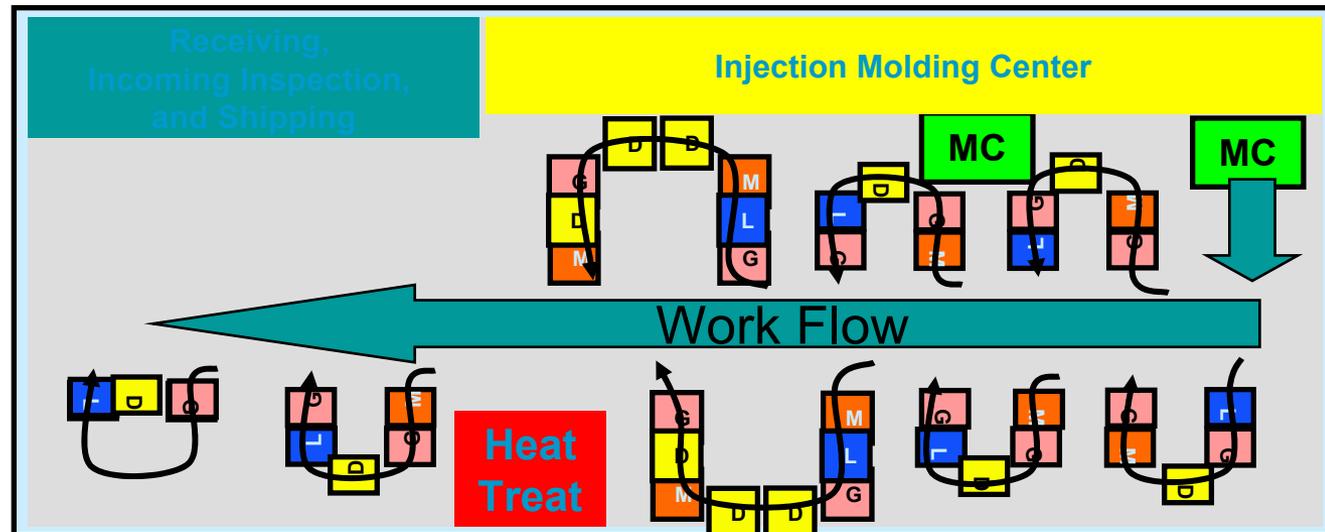
Discuss ways in which the social and technical changes are or are not interdependent. Derive 1-3 “Guiding Principles” for implementing a systems change of this type.

# Exercise: Cellular Manufacturing

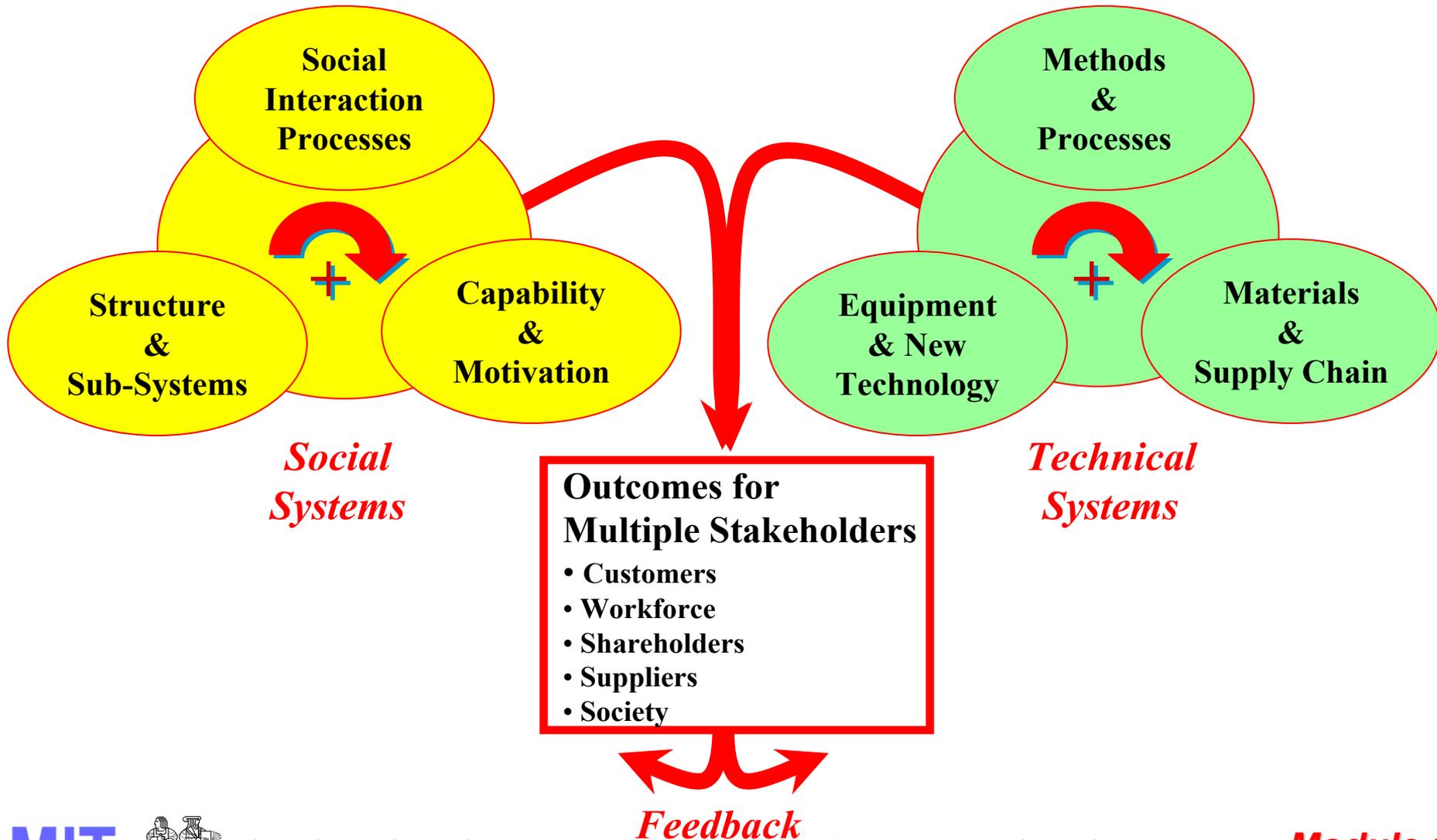


**Current State**

**Desired State**



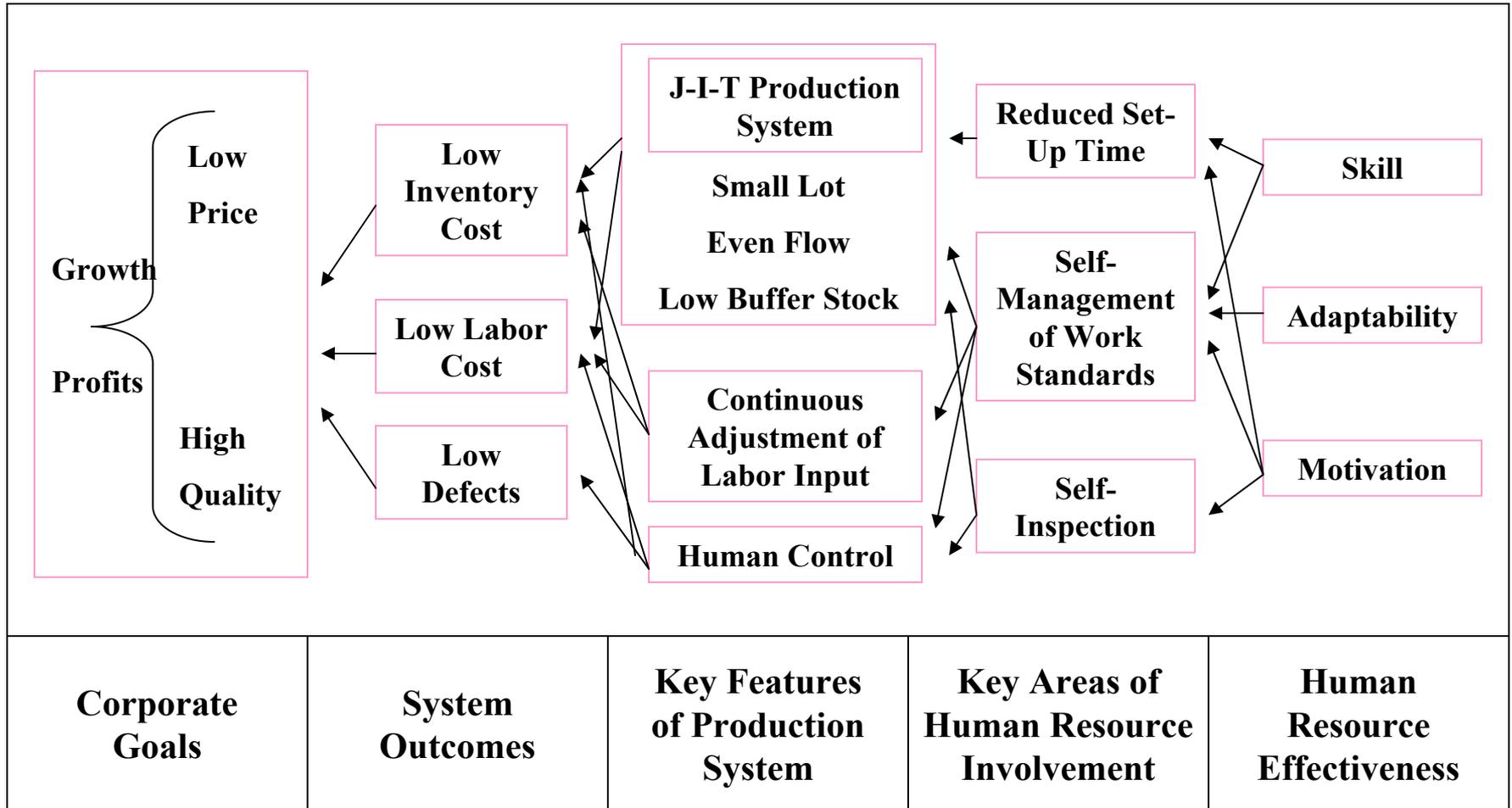
# Revisit the Social and Technical Systems Framework



# Conclusion

- A unique historical moment
- The constant challenge and opportunity presented by social and technical interdependency
- A fragile foundation for a global transformation

# Appendix: Japanese Model of Production System and “Humanware”



Source Haruo Shimada and John Paul MacDuffie, *Industrial Relations and “Humanware”* (Sloan School of Management Work Paper, September, 1986)