

Global Communications Newsletter

May 2010

Ninth IEEE Malaysia International Conference on Communications (MICC 2009)

By Borhanuddin Mohd Ali, MICC2009 Conference Chair, Malaysia

After one and a half years of sweat and toil and high anxiety, MICC 2009 took place successfully on 15–17 December, 2009. It was held at the Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, a Best Western hotel. Kuala Lumpur is the capital city of Malaysia, a vibrant metropolitan city of 1.5 million people from diverse cultures living together in harmony.

There were 230 papers accepted from a total of 395 papers submitted, and 154 papers were eventually presented. Papers were received from 35 countries in diverse areas of communications. The first CFP was opened in April 2008, and the close of paper submission was in September 2009.

One hundred eighty persons eventually attended the conference. The papers were organized into five tracks, over two days. The usual one-day tutorials were cancelled, however, due to lack of response.

The conference commenced on 15 December with the opening ceremony officiated by Dato' Hod Parman, the General Chair. Welcoming remarks were given by Borhanuddin Mohd Ali, the Conference Chair. This was followed by a fine keynote talk by Roberto Saracco, Telecom Italia, Vice President of Sister Society Relations of ComSoc and a member of the MICC International Advisory Panel. He talked about the future scenario of telecommunications and its impacts on the telecoms business.

From then on the technical sessions started, organized into five tracks of 40 sessions. The second day, 16 December, went on as usual, with more papers being presented and discussions ensuing.

On the third day, 17 December, a small ceremony was held sponsored by NEST, the Malaysian National Centre of Excellence on Sensor Technology, located at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The welcome remark was again given by Borhanuddin who currently is in charge of NEST. He explained the role of NEST and its relationship with government initiatives on MYICMS886, the strategic plan for communications and multimedia in Malaysia. This was followed by a sneak preview of the Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) Knowledge Repository portal, a portal of resources on many aspects of WSN technology and research. This website is open to the public at <http://www.wsntech.net.my>.

This was followed by another keynote talk by Prof. Lawrence Wong of the National University of Singapore (NUS), a member of the MICC International Advisory Panel and Director Elect of IEEE Region 10. He gave an overview of the Digital Media Initiatives of Singapore and how his own group at NUS has responded to this call with their innovative research activities. The overall objective was to create an ambience for digital living. The conference ended at noon of



An attentive audience listening to the keynote address.

the 17th after a final session of technical paper presentations.

Overall, the conference succeeded in bringing together researchers and academicians to share their findings and exchange opinions on their research outcomes.

The next conference is planned to be held in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of the state of Sabah, an East Malaysia state on the island of Borneo, possibly to be jointly held with a regional conference.

Kota Kinabalu is an exciting venue, with ample attractions in ecotourism. It is home to some of the rare wildlife unique to this part of the world, such as orangutans, and the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia. The name of the city is derived from the name of the largest peak in Southeast Asia, Mount Kinabalu, which stands at 13,455 ft above sea level, one of the most climbed mountains in the world.

The organizing committee would like to thank all those who contributed directly and indirectly to the running of the conference; to the many paper reviewers without whose help we would have had difficulty selecting suitable papers; the international advisory panel members who helped with their wise interventions at various points in the preparation of the conference; and particularly Dr. Roberto Saracco and Prof. Lawrence Wong for accepting our invitation.

Thanks are also due to the two sponsors, albeit coming at a very late stage: Telekom Malaysia, the main telecom operator, and Packet 1, the main WiMAX operator. We look forward to their continued support for our future events.

Conference web site: <http://www.micc.org.my>

More pics are accessible at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/micc2009conference>



Roberto Saracco giving an enlightening keynote address.

A New Conference Experience: A Short Report on IEEE SoftCOM 2009

By Dinko Begusic and Nikola Rozic, Program Co-Chairs, Croatia

The 17th International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM 2009) was held in the attractive ambience of the Amfora hotel on the island of Hvar on 24 and 25 September, and aboard the cruise ship Marko Polo on September 26, visiting Korcula and Split. The Conference was organized by the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, and CCIS under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, and the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development. The Conference was technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc). This conference was endorsed by the Technical Committee on Communications Software (TCCS).

Researchers and experts from industry, research institutes, and universities from 30 countries all around the world submitted in total 193 papers for presentation at SoftCOM '09. Submitted papers were reviewed by more than 215 scientists from universities, institutes, and ICT companies all over the world. All accepted papers were carefully selected based on their contribution, relevance, conceptual clarity, and overall quality. Nearly 40 percent of submitted papers were recommended for presentation within the conference technical program.

The conference program featured nine general conference sessions, a symposium on environmental electromagnetic compatibility, and four special sessions dedicated to the most practical topics in the area of mobile and wireless communications. A professional workshop dedicated to the wide spectra of topics in ICT was held too. In addition, three half-day tutorials were held by internationally recognized experts. A special session dedicated to Ph.D. students featured presentations on a range of research topics.

The inspiring plenary speech titled "How Adaptive Technologies Can Lead to a User Centered Service Platform" was given by Roberto Minerva (Telekom Italia, Future Centre and Technical Communication Department). It engendered a number of lively discussions among participants.

The Workshop on Education in ICT featured presentations by representatives from leading Croatian academic institutions, the Universities of Zagreb and Split. Zoran Skocir from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (University of Zagreb) and Tomislav Kilic, dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (University of Split) presented the experiences and results after four years of new study programs in the area of ICT formed in accordance with the Bologna declaration. The representative of the largest ICT company in Croatia, Ericsson Nikola Tesla, Goran Skugor, presented his views of education processes in the area of ICT. Stipe Celar, a



The keynote speech was given by Roberto Minerva (Telekom Italia, Future Centre and Technical Communication Department).

member of the research team of the international Tempus project aimed at internationalization of software engineering in Croatia, presented the results of the project.

In conjunction with SoftCOM '09, a Business Forum was organized featuring workshops, invited talks, round tables, and presentations with participation of managers, executives, experts, and government and institution representatives who discussed and exchanged opinions and experiences on a number of hot topics in contemporary and future ICT industry and market including business, technological, and social aspects.

Drazen Lucic, director of the Croatian agency for post and electronic communications, held a presentation titled "An Overview and a Forecast of Electronic Communications Market in the Republic of Croatia." Tomislav Vracic from the central state office for e-Croatia presented a talk titled "Implementation of the e-Government Strategy in Croatia." Antun Caric and Silvije Seremet from the Croatian agency for post and electronic communications presented the talk "E-Agency: Implementation of the Croatian Post and Electronic Communications." Kreso Antonovic, director of the directorate for electronic communications and postal services, held the talk "Analog to Digital Television Broadcasting Switchover Strategy in Croatia — The Status of Implementation."

The conference participants had an opportunity to visit the islands of Hvar and Korcula, highly appreciated tourist resorts. The participants enjoyed a particularly warm welcome reception by the Mayor of the town of Korcula, enjoying the unique taste of local fruits, sweets, and wine in a friendly atmosphere. After the reception participants had a chance to take a walk along the old town streets. A guided tour along the ancient walls gave participants another attractive view of the city.

The SoftCOM '09 journey finished in Split, the largest city on the Croatian coast of the Adriatic Sea and the capital of the County of Split and Dalmatia with a population of 400,000. The visit to Split offered participants an extraordinary city tour. The guided tour started in front of the Sveti Frane church at the western end of Riva. The participants had a chance to pass along the south promenade of the Palace and feel a light breeze blowing from the sea, welcoming them to this town.

A welcome reception by Ms. Nansi Ivanisevic, the Counselor of the Mayor of the Town of Split, was organized in the Diocletian Palace Basement.

Popular old Dalmatian dances and songs performed by the folk ensemble "Jedinstvo" offered participants attractive glimpses of the tradition and culture of Dalmatia.



The Deocletian Palace in Split.

Fifth International FOKUS IMS Workshop 2009, Berlin, Germany

By Prof. Dr. Thomas Magedanz, General Chair, Senior Member IEEE ComSoc, Germany

The 5th International FOKUS IMS Workshop on Next Generation (Mobile) Networks and the Future Internet — Towards Rich Communications and Interactive Media was held in Berlin, Germany, on 11–12 November, 2009 at the premises of Fraunhofer Institute FOKUS. Around 200 people from 29 nations, many of them IEEE ComSoc members, attended this year's event, classifying it as one of the bigger conferences in 2009. The workshop was part of a series of FOKUS events on innovative multimedia services and related enabling technologies as well as protocols in the field of next-generation networks (NGNs), next-generation mobile networks (NGMNs), including the related evolved packet core (EPC), and the future Internet (FI). The workshop series was originally devoted to the IP multimedia subsystem (IMS), but its scope has grown tremendously over the last years, as the scope of IMS and related technologies has also extended in view of progressing convergence of networks and services.

Unlike previous events, this year's event ran four closely related tracks in parallel on the first day. Each area featured its own tutorial in the morning and interactive workshop in the afternoon.

Track 1, "Rich Communications and Telco 2.0," represented the major pillar of this workshop series as this topic has been covered since the first workshop. The tutorial "Open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)" was attended by 50 delegates, and provided an overview of services principles, architectures, standards, services, and service creation approaches and tools for telecommunications and the Internet. The workshop "Facing the Technology Landscape beyond Voice" has been attended by 60 delegates. In two interactive sessions we looked at principles for open APIs and service environments in a converged web/telco service system from

two perspectives: service platforms in the network (presentations by trommsdorff + drüner, OMA, Sunrise, BT, NTT, and DT Developer Garden) and client architectures (presentations by Bell Labs, TNO, T-Labs, Siruna NV, W3C, and OMTP).

Track 2, "IPTV and Media Convergence," also represented a classic topic, which was added in 2007 to the event's scope. The tutorial "Rich Media and Convergence" was attended by around 30 participants from different professions. The tutorial gave deep insight on the different topics driving the developments inside the current (IP)TV domain. The workshop "IPTV and Media Convergence" was attended by around 50 delegates, and addressed the challenges and opportunities for operators, vendors, content providers, and the advertising industry in a converged services world. Representatives from all these stakeholders — Intel, Sony, Philips, IRT, Detecon, Mediengruppe RTL, Alcatel-Lucent, Google/YouTube, Microsoft, Novay, RTV Media Group, MMH, STC, and TNO — expressed their views, followed by committed discussions with and among the audience.

Track 3, "Future Internet," represented a new track. The "Future Internet Technologies" tutorial addressed the topics of network virtualization, functional composition, autonomic communication, content-centric networks, and delay/disruption-tolerant networks (DTNs). The second part introduced peer-to-peer P2P concepts, as well as P2P and P4P evolution. The third part covered methods to assess future Internet solutions. The corresponding workshop, "Future Internet — What Can We Use Today?" was attended by around 40 delegates. In her opening keynote Graca Carvalho (Cisco Systems) showed how demands from mobile networks and cloud com-

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ICUMT 2009 Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia

Boris Sokolov, Vladimir Vishnevsky, Alexey Vinel, Gennady Yanovsky, Yevgeni Koucheryav, and Dmitry A. Tkachenko, Russia

The International Conference on Ultra Modern Communications was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 12–14 October, 2009. The conference was organized by SPIIRAS (an institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences), St. Petersburg University of Telecommunications, and Tampere University of Technology, Finland. The IEEE Russia Northwest BT/CE/COM Chapter was a technical co-sponsor of the conference along with the Popov Society (a professional society of Russian radio and communications engineers). Patrons and supporters of the conference were the government of St. Petersburg, Nokia, Nokia Siemens Networks, and other organizations.

The technical program of ICUMT 2009 included nine keynote talks by internationally recognized industrial and academic speakers, 13 specialized workshops, and the main conference track. Conference proceedings include more than 300 papers that were selected from more than 500 submissions with the help of more than 300 Technical Program Committee members, reviewers, and workshop chairs. The conference was attended by over 350 participants.

New insights in radio technologies as well as networking aspects of wireless communications systems were key topics of the conference. Keynote speakers presented insights and trends in LTE, IEEE 802.16 and WiMAX, IEEE 802.11, the future Internet, and other topics. Significant scientific contributions were presented in the areas of relaying technologies in modern wireless communications, mobile ad hoc networking, numerical methods of queuing theory, adaptive self-improving



A group of participants of the conference from different countries after the conference party.

web tools capable of learning and understanding contents, and predictive routing algorithms in the future Internet. Papers concerning many other technical fields and technologies were also presented and discussed at the conference, such as wireless sensor networks, wireless network protocols, physical layer issues for wireless networks (e.g., multiple-input multiple output [MIMO], orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing [OFDM], and ultra wideband [UWB]), cross-layer optimization, and RFID technologies.

The conference was really international, with speakers and attendees arriving in St. Petersburg from 45 countries. The conference proceedings are available in IEEE Xplore. Some results of the conference are also available at the conference web site, <http://www.icumt.org/>.

putting put more and more pressure on today's networks. The second part of the workshop, under the motto "How FIT is your network?" was dedicated to the preparation of the first future Internet Tournament in 2010.

Track 4, "NGMN and Evolved Packet Core (EPC)" was also new and motivated by the current hype around Long Term Evolution (LTE) and the corresponding emerging notion of NGMN. The tutorial "NGMN and Related Technologies — LTE, EPC and IMS" introduced the terminology, key concepts, and architectures, as well as the related 3GPP evolved packet system (EPS) standards. A major focal point was the evolved packet core (EPC) and its relationship to IMS. In the correlated workshop experts from research and industry, such as Fraunhofer HHI, Deutsche Telekom AG, Vodafone, the University of Aveiro, mobilkom austria, Swisscom, and SAP, presented their latest results and visions regarding LTE and NGMN applications.

The main conference, entitled "Rich Communications and Media Services above Smart Broadband Bit Pipes and the Future Internet," on the following day aimed to unite the different tracks and attracted around 180 attendants. The first session, "Open APIs for Rich Communications in Converged Networks," discussed different approaches to opening up the network and/or end systems for converged service provision from the standards and operator perspectives.

Session two, "Rich Media," compared emerging interactive IPTV standards and operator platforms with alternative approaches from the Internet community providing gaming and targeted content.

The afternoon started with a technical keynote, "Preventing Congestion Collapse of SIP Servers," by Prof. Dr. Henning Schulzrinne, Columbia University, New York City, which was followed by a vendor panel discussion on "How to Get to NGN and How to Get from NGN to Future Internet?"

The final session was devoted to the evolution of NGN toward the future Internet by looking at future Internet experimental platforms, the impacts of P2P and cloud technologies on NGNs, as well as how new future Internet concepts such as "identifier/locator split" work.

Presentation slides from the 56 talks being of high interest to IEEE ComSoc members may be downloaded from <http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de/go/ims-event/download>. Pictures can be found in the gallery at <http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de/go/ims-event/pictures>.

Alongside the workshops and conference vendor exhibitions were shown the state of the art of NGN service delivery platforms (SDPs), as well as the newest NGMN toolkits from Fraunhofer FOKUS: the universal client framework myMONSTER (www.mymonster.org) and the NGMN prototyping platform OpenEPC (www.openepc.net).

As announced in the closing session, the classical FOKUS IMS Workshop series has come to an end with its fifth iteration. But as this workshop series represents a globally unique forum, providing a premier information source and technical networking platform for international experts from the related industries and well-known academic institutions, plans are underway to continue the workshop series under the banner of some major IEEE ComSoc conference, such as GLOBECOM or ICC. However, this is some time ahead, and we therefore point the interested reader to our website, http://www.fokus.fraunhofer.de/go/ims_event, which we will use to announce the latest information about future events.

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