

political, economic, and cultural exchange in southern China since the Qin Dynasty. The city is rich in historical and cultural resources.

Twelve distinguished speakers from Australia, United States, Singapore, and China were invited to deliver talks at the workshop. Their presentations covered many topics of interest in control science and engineering, including hybrid intelligent systems, multiagent systems, modeling and control of unmanned air vehicles, rehabilitation systems, system identification, and power control in wireless communica-

tions. The workshop, which was attended by more than 150 participants, provided a unique opportunity for researchers from mainland China and overseas to have close interaction. The workshop also benefited graduate students, many of whom actively participated in discussions through question and answer sessions.

The workshop banquet dinner was held at the Baiyun International Convention Center and attended by the workshop speakers and many other distinguished guests. The dean of the college, Bugong Xu, extended his warm

welcome to the guests. Guest of honor Yuanyuan Li, president of the South China University of Technology, delivered a speech. His talk provided an introduction to Guangdong Province, a region with the fastest economic and manufacturing industrial growth in China. He invited control and automation experts around the world to participate in the future development of the university and to contribute to local automation industries.

Lihua Xie
Workshop Chair

The 15th Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED'07)

The 15th Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED'07) took place on June 27–29, 2007 at the Divani Caravel Hotel in Athens, Greece. The focus of the conference was on new directions in control and automation, with the goal of promoting the exchange of ideas and collaboration among

researchers in the Mediterranean region and throughout the globe. The conference general chairs were Panos Antsaklis of the University of Notre Dame, and Kimon Valavanis of the University of South Florida. The conference program chair was Zdenko Kovacic of the University of Zagreb, Croatia. The conference was dedicated in memory of George N. Saridis, a visionary of intelligent control and the founding president of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Council/Society, who passed away in October 2006.

Ancient and modern at the same time, the city of Athens, named after Athena, the ancient Greek goddess of wisdom, was a great conference location. Throughout the city center, and including the modern subway stations built just before the 2004 Olympic Games, one could view ancient remains from more than three thousand years of history. The peak of ancient Athens' glory was in the fifth and fourth centuries B.C., when the city was the center of philosophy, literature, and the arts of the ancient world and the home of prominent figures such as the philosophers Plato and Socrates, the historian Herodotus,

and the sculptor Phidias. The Athenian Democracy, the first democracy in the world, was established at that time. The most famous landmark of Athens is the Parthenon on the Acropolis, built in the fifth century B.C. Even though this was the hottest June in decades, with the temperature reaching a record 47 °C (116 °F) on June 26, the tourists were relentless!

MED'07 broke all records for both the number of submitted papers and the number of participants. The technical program, comprised of 55 sessions, including one invited session, ran in six parallel tracks for three days. A total of 323 papers out of 415 submissions, including 23 peer-reviewed poster papers, were accepted for presentation at the conference. The technical program featured four plenary talks, specifically, Mike Grimble of the University of Strathclyde, "Why Industry Needs Improved and Practical Nonlinear Control: A Challenge for Today;" Joerg Raisch of TU Berlin, "Hierarchical Control—Reconciling Hybrid Systems Theory and Control Applications;" Karl Henrik Johansson of the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, "Wireless Control Systems:



B. LAMPE

Statue of ancient Greek goddess Athena.

Scientific Challenges and Emerging Applications;" and Tariq Samad of Honeywell Labs "Control Systems Architectures for the Process Industries." There were also two roundtable discussions, "Automation in the Ancient Mediterranean World" and "Web Threats." Introduced at this conference were work-in-progress papers, which reported ongoing research and were displayed as posters, to stimulate interaction among participants.

The conference was attended by a record number of 300 participants from over 50 countries. Eighteen students were nominated for the Best Student Paper Award competition. The winner was Marialena Vagia for her paper "Robust PID-control Design for an Electrostatic Micromechanical Actuator with Structured Uncertainty," coauthored with Anthony Tzes, both of the University of Patras. The technical program was



The Asclipeion in Kos, Greece, where Hippocrates practiced medicine.

preceded by a one-day tutorial, "Unmanned Aerial Ground and Undersea Systems: Theory and Applications," by George Vachtsevanos, Georgia Institute of Technology, Panos Antsaklis, and Kimon Valavanis, which reviewed current research, as well as methods and techniques for improving autonomy of unmanned systems from single unmanned vehicles to teams involving cooperation, coordination, com-

munication, cooperative control, and swarm intelligence.

The conference was sponsored by the Mediterranean Control Association (MCA) and was technically cosponsored by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, the IEEE CSS, Advantech SA, ARRI of the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of South Florida, the University of Zagreb, the Technical University of Crete, and the National Technical University of Athens.

The next MED conference will take place in June 2008 in Ajaccio-Corsica, France.

For more information, see the MED'07 Web site <http://med07.rasip.fer.hr>, or contact the publicity chair, Maja Matijasevic (mmatijasevic@ieee.org), University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Unska 3, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia.

Maja Matijasevic
Publicity Chair

The 22nd Youth Automation Conference of the Chinese Association of Automation (YAC'07)

The 22nd Youth Automation Conference of the Chinese Association of Automation (YAC'07) was held on August 3–5, 2007, in the picturesque city of Guilin, Guangxi, China. This meeting is one of the few major annual events in the general area of automation that occur in China. The YAC series is sponsored by the Youth Working Committee of the Chinese Automation Association, and is organized by a different academic institution as a local cosponsor each year.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The YAC of the Chinese Association of Automation was conceived to provide

a venue for scholars under the age of 40 to exchange their research results. Since its inception in 1985 in Yantai,

Shandong Province, the YAC has been held 23 times, including the 1995 event, which was held jointly with the



The opening ceremony of YAC'07.