
Note from Sueli Costa, 21 Jan 2010 regarding proposed ITW Paraty 2011:

Please find enclosed our proposal (with some revision) and the corresponding new version of the budget. Following your advice, we here attempt to address the issues that the Conference Committee pertinently pointed out.

A) On the proposed location

As mentioned before, even considering the disadvantage of additional transportation, the organizing committee for ITW-2011 strongly advocates the choice of Paraty as the workshop venue, based on our main objective of offering an opportunity for real and fruitful interaction between researchers and students. We think that, together with the proposed program and selected speakers, this location really favors this aspect. We point out next some of the reasons we have considered.

A1) Paraty (white fish in Tupi, a native Brazilian language) is a small historical town, around 450 years old, located on the Brazilian coast, at about equal distances from Rio and São Paulo airports. It was initially a commercial interpost and eventually became the port from where gold was shipped to Portugal, during Brazil's cycle of gold. The environment has been kept to maintain its original architectural characteristics, with colonial façades, cobblestones and narrow streets where no cars are allowed. Nevertheless, there are modern installations and well equipped conference settings. This is a beautiful resort town, surrounded by exuberant natural attractions in sea and land (Atlantic Forest), that can provide excellent easily accessible tours (a boat trip is also an option in the program). The intimate town environment is conducive to rich and close exchanges among workshop participants. Additional advantages are the adequate security of the place, the good experience of recent conferences, the appropriate infrastructure for international events, and the strategic location, at 236 km (147 mi) from Rio and 280 km (174 mi) from São Paulo. Other large centers such as Belo Horizonte and Campinas are also located at reasonable distances. Paraty is an attractive choice for the realization of ITW-2011, as it can provide for a rather unique experience for all participants. It is quite different from conventional options of large convention centers or five-star hotels.

A2) The meeting ICA-2009, 8th ICA- International Conference on Independent Component Analysis and Signal Separation (www.ica2009.org) was held last March in Paraty, and organized by some of our colleagues. There were 110 participants, 90 from abroad. This was a conference with similar registration fees as ITW. The organizers report that they have received very positive feedback from the participants (e.g., Prof. Simon Haykin,

from McMaster University, Waterloo, ON, Canada, and Tulai Adali, from Univ. of Maryland) one of the invited speakers) concerning the research exchanges, the location environment, and also on the unexpected easiness of the airport transfers.

B) Transportation

There is regular transportation from both Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo airports to Paraty. The organizing committee will negotiate special schedules and prices for both transfers with Paratytours (paratytours@paratytours.com.br). The transfer to Paraty is a safe trip on paved roads, passing through several scenic environments. The vehicles are equipped with air conditioning, radios and cell phones, and during most of the trip cellular phone capability is available. Reservations can be made either for regular buses (28 passengers ^ about U\$ 25.00 one way), executive vans (12 passengers ^ about U\$ 30.00 one way) or private cabs (about U\$ 85.00 one way each person, minimum two passengers). Estimated time for regular transportation is about 4 hours from both São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro airports. The regular pick up schedule for buses and vans from both São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro airports is also enclosed.

C) On budget constrains

- The budget presented now separates the fix expenses and hence allows the simulation of different attendance possibilities- one may change the number of attendants and redo the calculations. We believe the expected attendance in the previous version is realistic.- The number of potential interested researchers and students in Brazil and the attendance in the more specific conference mentioned above (A2) give some support to this expectation. Even so, it is of course important to consider a more pessimistic scenario. As it can be seen, if we consider all the fix expenses and 80% of the perspective attendance we obtain roughly a US\$ 300,00 surplus. This surplus may be higher if the next remark is considered.

- The key note lectures are very important for our purpose of enhancing this research area in Brazil. Speakers will be carefully selected by all co- chairs and advisors. We will follow the IT Society policy and will respectfully ask the invited speakers for the possibility of funding their own travel. The expenses assigned in the budget for this item are part of a pessimistic scenario, where we assume that speakers may not have proper funding for travel and lodging, and in which case we will pay for them

As mentioned before, Max Costa will be at the ITA in San Diego and will participate of the Board meeting on January 31. He can provide any further information, if necessary.

With thanks for all the information and support the Conference Committee has provided up to now,

Best regards
Sueli Costa