

Conference Committee Report (updated January 31, 2015)

IEEE Information Theory BoG Meeting Sunday, February 1, 2015, ITA

Committee Members

Jeff Andrews
Michelle Effros (ex-officio)
Elza Erkip (Chair)
Albert Guillen I Fabregas
Stephen Hanly
Ubli Mitra
Alon Orlitsky (ex-officio)
Daniela Tuninetti (ex-officio)
Ruediger Urbanke

New Members: Albert Guillen I Fabregas, Ubli Mitra, Daniela Tuninetti (ex-officio)

IT Symposia

Summary

2014	Hawaii	Completed
2015	Hong Kong	Reviews underway, venues decided, invited program in place
2016	Barcelona	Venue and PCO contracts
2017	Aachen	Dates fixed

2014 Hawaii (June 29-July 4, Alek Kavcic, Anders Høst-Madsen, Venu Veeravalli)

Conference completed.

2015 Hong Kong (June 14-19, David Tse, Raymond Yeung)

Finance

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Finance is generally healthy. Cash flow problems should be solvable.

A. A \$60K loan from IEEE has been received.

B. Sponsorship

\$15K Huawei

\$10K VTech, Qualcomm, Google, Croucher Foundation (for student travel)

\$5K Broadcom, State Key Lab of ISN (Xidian University), MediaTek, INC, IBM Research (\$4-5K for student travel)

Application for travel support for US students from NSF in progress.
KC Wong Foundation has committed to sponsor 18 participants from Mainland China, each for \$2.25K
The East Asia School of Information Theory (now renamed the Croucher School of Information Theory) will be held in Hong Kong one week before ISIT. The Summer School will be able to provide travel support to some participants who can stay on for ISIT.

C. Early Bird Registration for IT Member is tentatively set to \$800. Will further review.

Venues

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Venues have all been decided:

Conference and Awards Luncheon: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Reception: Sky100 (100 floors above the city)
Banquet: Jumbo Kingdom Floating Restaurant

TPC

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A. Plenary speakers (all confirmed):

- (a) Terrence J. Sejnowski (Salk Institute for Biological Studies)
- (b) Madhu Sudan, Microsoft Research
- (c) Ruediger Urbanke, EPFL
- (d) Bin Yu, UC Berkeley

B. Semi-Plenary Sessions: Based on the feedback from BoG through Elza, (of those that responded, 8 were in support, 2 were against and 1 undecided not including Vijay's vote), we have decided to go ahead with the semi-plenary sessions as planned.

C. TPC Membership:

153 TPC members

This includes members of the separate sub-committees that have been set up to handle:

Appeals: 3

Jack Wolf Student Paper Award: 11

Semi-Plenary Speaker Selection: 12

TPC Members held in Reserve: 12

C. Paper submissions and handling:

Initial deadline of Jan. 19, 2015 was subsequently extended to Jan. 24, 2015.

There were 953 submissions in all. This is slightly down from the 1008 we received in 2014.

The papers have been allocated to the TPC members for handling with a request to provide decisions by March 9, 2015. The TPC meeting has been set for March 21, 2015 at UC Berkeley. Decisions to be communicated by March 31, 2015.

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Tutorials

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T-AM-1: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION COMPLEXITY by M. Braverman (Princeton), R. Oshman (Tel Aviv U.), and O. Weinstein (Princeton)

T-AM-2: CONCENTRATION OF MEASURE AND ITS APPLICATIONS by M. Raginsky (UIUC) and I. Sason (Technion)

T-PM-1: CACHE NETWORKS: AN INFORMATION-THEORETIC VIEW by M-A. Maddah-Ali (Bell Labs) and U. Niesen (Qualcomm)

T-PM-2: INFORMATION THEORY AND MACHINE LEARNING by E. Abbe (Princeton) and M. Wainwright (UC Berkeley)

2016 Barcelona (Albert Guillen i Fabregas, Alfonso Martinez, Sergio Verdu)

Venue and PCO contracts are being prepared for signature and we have selected and negotiated a good deal with a banquet venue. We talked to ISIT 2015 organizers to pass on their sponsorship contacts so that we can start with sponsorship requests.

2017 Aachen (Gerhard Kramer, Rudolf Mathar)

Dates fixed: June 25-June 30. Initial budget planning, potential sponsors. For more details, please see the presentation under meeting documents.

Future ISITs: 2018 and beyond -- Normally, the earliest the IT Society would commit to an organizer of an ISIT is four years in advance, although the conference committee does try to track interest from organizers for any future ISIT. Anyone with interest in organizing a future meeting or suggestions should contact the conference committee.

Considering that ISIT will be outside of North America for three years in a row (2015-2017), the committee has been actively probing possible organizers for a North American venue. There is a strong interest from a team in Colorado for ISIT 2018. The

team includes Mahesh Varanasi (UC Boulder), Rockey Luo (Colorado State). They are looking into venue options, and have obtained some quotes. So far, venue sizes and prices indicate feasibility.

Other possibilities for 2018 /2019:

- Pablo Piantanida (Supelec), for ISIT in Paris (2109)
- Vitaly Skacheck (U. or Tartu, Estonia), for ISIT in Helsinki (2018 or 2019)

Other groups expressing interest in hosting a future ISIT in:

- Stockholm (Lars Rasmussen),
- Melbourne (Emanuele Viterbo),

[VOTE] Schedule for ISIT approvals:

We would like to propose a more regular schedule for ISIT approvals. Right now, the conference committee and the BoG discuss and approve conferences as proposals become available (though most approvals take place during the annual BoG meeting).

The conference committee proposes to approve ISIT proposals only during the annual BoG meeting. This allows for bigger BoG participation and it is easier for proposers since more people attend ISIT. Also, this makes it easier to schedule simultaneous discussion of competing proposals. If approved, we can announce this timeline in the newsletter and do an e-mail blast a few months before ISIT to alert potential organizers.

For ITWs, the conference committee proposes to continue to discuss them as they become available since (i) we can have multiple ITWs in a year, (ii) it would be good to be able to decide quicker for organizations taking advantage of a topic area /venue.

IT Workshop

Summary

2014	Hobart, Tasmania	Completed
2015	Jeju, Korea	Budget approved
2015	Jerusalem, Israel	Program ready, registration live
2016	Cambridge, UK	All on track
2017	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	VOTE for approval

2014 ITW Hobart, Tasmania (November 2-5, Jamie Evans, Yi Hong)

Completed

2015 ITW Jerusalem, Israel (April 26-May 1, Yossef Steinberg, Rami Zamir, Jacob Ziv)

- 1) The banquet location was chosen as the Israel Museum restaurant (including a guided tour especially for the workshop)
- 2) The review process of contributed papers is just over and acceptance notifications were sent.
- 3) Registration website and forms are online.
- 4) Program will include about 120 talks (42 invited) and a special historic panel (organized by Tony Ephremides).
- 5) Contract between IEEE and CPO was delayed, mainly due to lack of response from IEEE.

2015 ITW Jeju, Korea (October 12-15, Hong-Yeop Song and Giuseppe Caire)

All on track. Budget was approved by e-mail BoG vote.

2016 ITW Cambridge, UK (Sept 12-14, Deniz Gunduz, David MacKay, Jossy Sayir)

All on track.

[VOTE] 2017 ITW Kaohsiung, Taiwan (Nov 5-8, Po-NingChen, Gerhard Kramer, Chih-Peng)

Presentation by Stefano Rini (Publications)

The conference committee recommends BoG approval

Future ITWs -- Interest from potential organizers: Proposals for ITWs are usually approved 18 to 24 months before the workshop.

Gurgen Khachatryan gurgenkh@aua.am is interested in organizing an ITW at his home institution, the American University of Armenia, and seeks suggestions from the Board of Governors regarding possible TPC co-chairs and general co-chairs. Please contact Gurgen and/or Elza if you are interested.

Joint Workshops: In order to increase ties with communities with which we have natural synergies, we have decided to explore joint workshops. A subcommittee has been formed to look into this. Subcommittee members: Jeff Andrews, Michelle Effros (ex-officio), Elza Erkip, Ubli Mitra, Alon Orlitsky.

Technically co-sponsored workshops

[VOTE] WiOpt 2015: The conference committee recommends BoG approval of Technical co-sponsorship.

Change in IEEE policy regarding TCS: Starting from December 31, 2015, IEEE will be charging technically co-sponsored conferences (TCS) \$1000 per conference and \$15 per paper.

IT Society can cover this cost, or pass it to the conferences. Our understanding is that currently we are paying for TCS in the form of an overhead, though it is not clear how this overhead is computed.

One other option is to financially co-sponsor conferences for a small percentage. In that case the above fees are not paid. However, the cost/revenue of this to the society is not clear.

CONFERENCES TECHNICALLY COSPONSORED BY THE IT SOCIETY 2006-2015, with 0% financial sponsorship – updated January 2015

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

- Allerton 2008-2014
- CISS 2006-2015
- ITA 2007-2015
- NetCod 2008-2015
- WiOpt 2006, 2007, 2009- 2014

- IEEE International Radar Conference, 2015
- Canadian Workshop on Information Theory (CWIT), 2007, 2013
- Smart Grid 2010, 2011 (series began in 2010)
- SPWC (2005, 2006, 2007) workshop on signal processing for wireless communications
- IEEE Swedish Comm Tech. Workshop (Sweets) 2011,2012 (Series began 2011)

BIENNIAL CONFERENCES

- ISITA – 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014
- International Symposium on Problems of Redundancy in Information and Control Systems, 2007, 2009, 2012 , 2014
- International Conference on Systems, Communications and Coding (SCC) – 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015
- Turbo Codes – 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014

OTHER CONFERENCES

- The Workshop "Coding Theory Days In St. Petersburg", 2008
- Int. Symposium on Wireless Communication Systems (ISWCS), 2011