Conference Committee Report (updated January 31, 2016)

IEEE Information Theory BoG Meeting Sunday, Feb. 1, 2016, San Diego

Committee Members
Jeff Andrews
Michelle Effros (ex-officio)
Albert Guillen i Fabregas
Stephen Hanly
Ubi Mitra
Alon Orlitsky (ex-officio)
Daniela Tuninetti (ex-officio)
Ruediger Urbanke

IT Symposia
Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>Final report with 3-4% surplus almost ready</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>Contract issues resolved, program on track, no loan</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Aachen</td>
<td>All on track</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Vail</td>
<td>Review of budget and loan request</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>All on track</td>
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2015 Hong Kong (June 14-19, David Tse, Raymond Yeung)

Summary: 605 papers were accepted, 760 people attended the conference. 16 registrants from South Korea had to cancel because of MERS and received full refund. Surplus about 3-4% (full financial report will be provided soon)

2016 Barcelona (July 10-15, Albert Guillen i Fabregas, Alfonso Martinez, Sergio Verdu)

Negotiations regarding the contract and the difficult clause unlocked. Contract text finally agreed upon by IEEE, our PCO (Grupo Pacifico) and organizers. It will be signed imminently.
Submissions closed on EDAS. 1 day extension was granted because of the East Coast blizzard. 1052 papers were submitted, 6 registered without a manuscript.
Call for tutorials was a success. Received 10 very good submissions and 5 were selected in agreement between the TPC and tutorials chairs. The selected tutorials are:

Sunday morning (in order to avoid BoG meeting clashes):
1. Acharya-Orlitsky-Suresh: Learning for big data
2. Barron-Venkataramanan: Sparse regression codes
3. Ozgur-Ulukus-Yener: Energy harvesting
Sunday afternoon:
4. Barg-Tamo: Codes with locality
5. Wilde: Quantum information theory

Semi-plenaries: In the light of the feedback about the new semi-plenary sessions held at ISIT 2015 in Hong Kong, the organizers along with TPC co-chairs had a second round of discussions about whether or not to hold these. Consensus, especially from TPC co-chairs, was not to hold them.

Shannon Centennial: there have been discussions about how to celebrate it at ISIT, but no strong candidate ideas have emerged. Suggestions welcome.

Sponsors: ongoing negotiations with several potential industrial sponsors. NSF awarded $20,000 to support travel expenses of US-based students.

Related events: Beyond IID in Information Theory (Barcelona, week before or after ISIT), Workshop on Mathematics in Communications (Santander, Spain, week before ISIT http://grupos.unican.es/amac/wmc2016/index.html)

Advance loan will not be needed.

2017 Aachen (June 25-June 30, Gerhard Kramer, Rudolf Mathar)
All on track. Call for papers will be distributed at ITA2016.

2018 Vail (June 17-22, Mahesh Varanasi, Ruediger Urbanke)

Budget was updated (see ISIT2018_Budget_Jan242016.xls).
• 850 participants about 8% surplus
  Pessimistic 75% participants about 4% surplus
  Optimistic 125% participants about 13% surplus
• Registration $790 IEEE IT advance
• $60K IEEE loan for down payment for the venue.

Reserved 1490 room nights total (including weekends before and after the conference). The total liability is ~ $ 270K + 9.8% tax.
Allowed a 20% attrition giving the hotel 30 days notice.

2019 Paris (July 7-14, Pablo Piantanida, Al Hero)
Nothing to report.
**Future ISITs: 2020 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.

Expressions of Interest for ISIT 2020:
- Helsinki (Marcus Greferath, Camilla Hollanti, Vitaly Skachek, Olav Tirkkonen)
- Los Angeles (Salman Avestimehr, Giuseppe Caire, Babak Hassibi)
- Melbourne (Emanuele Viterbo, Parastoo Sadeghi)
- Halifax (Dmitry Trukhachev, Stark Draper and Christian Schlegel, Senior Advisor: Frank Kschischang)
- Stockholm (Lars Rasmussen)

**IT Workshop Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Jerusalem, Israel</td>
<td>Surplus $9550 ready to be transferred to IEEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Jeju, Korea</td>
<td>Final budget submitted and surplus $4800 sent to IEEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Cambridge, UK</td>
<td>On schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Kaohsiung, Taiwan</td>
<td>Budget and loan request</td>
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**2015 ITW Jerusalem, Israel** (April 26-May 1, Yossef Steinberg, Rami Zamir, Jacob Ziv)

Surplus 9550$ to be transferred to IEEE (email from Haim Permuter 13/01/2016).

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

112 papers were submitted, 72 were accepted. In addition the workshop has 20 invited papers. 142 registrations (59 from Korea) as of September 21, 2015. See the detailed status report (that includes geographical distribution of papers and registrations, and the workshop program) in the “Conference Committee” folder of this BoG meeting.

Total Income: KRW 105,785,837
Total Expense: KRW 100,029,758
Surplus: KRW 5,756,079 (sent to IEEE at Dec. 1, 2015) (~4800 USD)

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

On track.

**2017 ITW Kaohsiung, Taiwan** (Nov 5-8, Po-Ning Chen, Gerhard Kramer, Chih-Peng)

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

Technically co-sponsored workshops

9th International Symposium on Turbo Codes
This symposium has been regularly sponsored by IT Soc
[ VOTE ] ITA 2016: The conference committee recommends BoG approval of Technical

XV International Symposium on Problems of Redundancy in Information and Control Systems, 05 - 09 September, 2016 St. Petersburg, Russia
General Co-Chairs: Evgenii Krouk (SUAI, Russia), Alexander Kuleshov (IITP RAS, Russia)
TPC Co-Chairs: Grigory Kabatiansky (IITP RAS, Russia), Ilya Dumer (University of California Riverside, USA).
TCS for Redundancy 2016 was approved by the Conference Committee by e-mail. It also needs to be approved by the BoG.
[ VOTE ] ITA 2016: 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. We have not received any complaints from the organizers, so at this point there is no need to discuss the IT Society partly covering this fee.

CONFERENCES TECHNICALLY COSPONSORED BY THE IT SOCIETY
2006-2016, with 0% financial sponsorship – updated October 2015

ANNUAL CONFERENCES
- Allerton 2008-2015
- CISS 2006-2016
- ITA 2007-2016
- NetCod 2008-2015
- IEEE International Radar Conference, 2015
- Canadian Workshop on Information Theory (CWIT), 2007, 2013
- Smart Grid 2010, 2011 (series began in 2010)
BIENNIAL CONFERENCES


OTHER CONFERENCES

- XV International Symposium on Problems of Redundancy in Information and Control Systems, 05 - 09 September, 2016 St. Petersburg, Russia
- Int. Symposium on Wireless Communication Systems (ISWCS), 2011
- The Workshop "Coding Theory Days In St. Petersburg", 2008