Conference Committee Report (Updated 30 Jan 2012)
IEEE Information Theory BOG Meeting Sunday, 5 February 2012, La Jolla, CA.

Committee Members
João Barros
Martin Bossert
Elza Erkip
Bruce Hajek (Chair)
Gerhard Kramer (ex-officio)
Muriel Médard (ex-officio)
Lars Rasmussen
Paul Siegel
Aylin Yener (ex-officio)

Symposia
Summary

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Cambridge/MIT</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Istanbul</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
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2011 St Petersburg (Vladimir Blinovsky/Anthony Ephremides/Alexander Kuleshov)
We have gathered all the Russian receipts for the items on which they spent the borrowed funds. This is necessary for the IEEE final audit. We do not expect any problems. We hope the audit will be completed in about a month. We still count on about $80K surplus (if not more).

2012 Cambridge (Muriel Medard/Lizhong Zheng)

2013 Istanbul (Erdal Arikan, Elza Erkip) - 1) Igal Sason (Technion) kindly agreed to be the fourth TPC Chair. Stefan Moser (NCTU, Taiwan) will be the Publications Chair.
2) The TPC Chairs have about 90 people so far. We plan to go up to 110 or so to have a reasonable load per TPC member. 3) Social Program: We evaluated different venues for reception, awards lunch and banquet. We managed to reduce the room rental fees in the conference center (ICEC). Considering price and convenience, ICEC seems to be the best option right now. We are in the process of negotiating a contract and payment options, and will sign the contract provided all the changes we request are taken care of. 4) We will be taking the second installment (50K Euros) of the staged loan to cover the 46,666 Euro which needs to be paid to ICEC on July 24, 2012. This will bring the
total loan to 85K Euros, under the maximum of 125K Euros approved by the BoG in January 2010.

**2014 Hawaii** (Alek Kavcic, Anders Høst-Madsen, Prasad Santhanam, Venu Veeravalli) REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2011: Have established bank account, reserved the conference venue, got two hotels on board. Still looking for a banquet venue.

**2015 Hong Kong** (Raymond Yeung and David Tse) REPORT FROM OCTOBER 2011: Raymond has made a site visit to the Convention Centre, the potential downtown venue for ISIT 2015. He and David are in the process of reviewing the financial viability of this option.

The Convention Centre can sign a contract with the IT Society to guarantee the availability of the venue, but the exact price cannot be pinned down until 18 to 24 months before the event because the prices will not be available until then. A 3 to 5 percent increase per annum is expected from the current price. Raymond is leaning towards going forward with a contract before exact pricing is fixed (any contract involving $25K or more would require approval of ITSoc and IEEE.)

**Future ISITs** -- 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.

Groups have expressed interest in hosting an ISIT in Barcelona (contact: Albert Guillen I Fabregas), Stockholm (contact: Lars Rasmussen), and Aachen Germany (contact: Rudolf Mathar).

**IT Workshops**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Paraty, Brazil</td>
<td>S. Costa</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Laussane</td>
<td>Budget (with no loan requested) was approved August 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>??????</td>
<td>No known proposals. Suggestions welcome!!!</td>
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**2011 ITW Paraty, Brazil** (S. Costa) Dates: October 15-21, 2011 "Our expectations concerning this workshop were fulfilled: great interaction and nice stimulating research environment, more than 180 participants (183 registered plus 8 volunteer students) from 29 countries. A surplus of approximately $24K is expected.

**2012 ITW Laussane** (Christina Fragouli and Emre Telatar) Dates: September 3-7, 2012. On track. The conference will take place from Monday morning to Friday. Several excursions will be proposed on Wednesday afternoon. The banquet’s venue is confirmed for Thursday night.
We plan to have 7 plenary speakers. 4 have already accepted and we are in contact with the remaining 3. Many of the speakers will be those that do not traditionally come to IT conferences/workshops.

There will also be 6 invited sessions, each with 3 speakers, with talks of 30 minutes each. These are mostly meant to bring in topics which we think are of interest to our community but are perhaps not as prevalent today as they could be. The topics are biology, cryptography, quantum coding/information theory, machine learning, and optical communications. For each of these topics we have contacted a well known person and have asked for help in organizing this session. The idea is to bring as many people as we can who do not normally come to IT events.

The bulk of the conference we are planning a different format than the usual 20 minute talk. Each "presentation" will consist of a 5 minute "preview" followed by a long poster session. Rather than having poster session participants as second class citizens, they will form the integral part of the workshop. We plan that all sessions are single track (unless we are overwhelmed with submissions). We hope that this way we have more interaction amongst participants.

It has been decided to include the four lunches to facilitate the mingling. As a consequence it is necessary to increase the registration fee by CHF 50 to cover the extra expenses. The idea of these sessions is to enable as much interaction as possible. For the poster sessions we are thinking of logistics and mechanisms to help the presenters (including formats, printing etc.), which we will update on soon. Each of the poster presentations will still have the usual 5-page paper as part of the conference proceedings.

**Future ITWs -- Interest from potential organizers** Proposals for ITWs are approved 18 to 24 months before the workshop. It’d be great to get something lined up for 2013.

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**NEW REQUIREMENT FROM IEEE CONFERENCE FINANCE**
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CONFERENCES TECHNICALLY COSPONSORED BY THE IT SOCIETY
2006-2011, but with 0% financial sponsorship (as listed in IEEE conference database as of August 1, 2011, plus recent requests)

ANNUAL CONFERENCES
(4) Allerton 2008-2012
(6) CISS 2006-2012
(5) ITA 2007-2012
(4) NetCod 2008-2012*
(2) Smart Grid 2010, 2011 (series began in 2010)

(3) SPWC (2005,2006,2007) workshop on signal processing for wireless communications

BIENNIAL CONFERENCES

OTHER CONFERENCES
2007 10th Canadian Workshop on Information Theory (CWIT)
2008 The Workshop "Coding Theory Days In St. Petersburg",
2009 XII International Symposium on Problems of Redundancy in Information and Control Systems, 2012 (approved at July 2011 BoG meeting)
2011 IEEE Swedish Communication Technologies Workshop (Sweets) 2011