IEEE PerCom 2014 Conference in Budapest, Hungary

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Budapest, the lovely capital of Hungary, was the city hosting IEEE PerCom 2014 (www.percom.org), the 12th IEEE International Conference on Pervasive Computing and Communications, on March 24–28 at the Aquincum Hotel Budapest. The conference, together with its affiliated events, was organized by the IEEE Computer Society, The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME – Department of Networked Systems and Services), and the Scientific Association for Infocommunications Hungary (HTE). Technical and financial sponsorship of IEEE PerCom 2014, including best paper awards and student travel grants, was provided by the IEEE Computer Society, the National Science Foundation of the USA (NSF), IBM Research, and Elsevier. The program confirmed the high quality tradition of PerCom, which attracted more than 250 attendees from around the world.

IEEE PerCom was established more than a decade ago as the premier annual IEEE scholarly venue for researchers, engineers, and students alike to share their state-of-the-art research and developmental work in the broad areas of pervasive computing and communications. This domain has evolved into an active area of research and development, due to the tremendous advances in a broad spectrum of technologies and topics, including wireless networking, mobile and distributed computing, sensor systems, RFID technology, and the ubiquitous mobile phone.

Similar to previous editions, the conference program stretched over five days and included the main conference (three days) which was flanked by two days of thematic workshops. On Monday, five workshops and a symposium (PerNEM, PerMoby, CROWDSENSING, SIPC, PerCity, ACoMoRe) opened the technical program and provided a venue for presenting novel ideas in more focused areas (such as emergency management, human mobility, crowdsensing, social aspects, smart cities, activity and context modeling) in a less formal way than what is typically possible at the main conference. The main event from Tuesday to Thursday offered a rich program of eight technical paper sessions containing 25 papers carefully selected after a thorough review process (acceptance rate for IEEE PerCom 2014 was 12%); two keynote lectures; a Work-In-Progress (WiP) session; a Ph.D. Forum; a range of

Left to right: Gergely Záruba, IEEE PerCom 2014 General Co-Chair; Péter Nagy, IEEE PerCom 2014 Local Chair; Karen Decker, IEEE PerCom 2014 General Liaison; and Károly Farkas, IEEE PerCom 2014 General Co-Chair.

Hungarian folklor performance during the Banquet.

demonstrations; and a panel discussion. On Friday, six post-conference workshops (SeSoc, PerCol, SCI, PD-Apps, MUCS, IQ2S) addressing the areas of security, collaboration, community intelligence, display networks, management, and Quality of Service closed IEEE PerCom 2014.

Both of the exciting keynote lectures discussed the topic of Internet of Things (IoT), but from different perspectives. On Tuesday Prof. Wei Zhao (Rector, University of Macau, P.R. China) in his lecture "WInternet: From Net of Things to Internet of Things," addressed principles, approaches, and critical issues that should guide research and development of IoT from an academic viewpoint. On Wednesday Dr. Christoph Grote (Head of BMW Group Research and Technology, Germany) provided insight into the actual state and future directions/challenges of IoT from the viewpoint of a leading car industry company in his talk, "IoT on the Move: The Ultimate Driving Machine as the Ultimate Mobile Thing." The panel discussion, closing the day on Wednesday, addressed the role of participatory sensing in pervasive computing. The four panelists and the moderator (Prof. Yutaka Arakawa, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan; Prof. Anish Arora, Ohio State University, USA; Prof. Paul Lukowicz, DFKI & Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Germany; Prof. Mani B. Srivastava, University of California at Los Angeles, USA; moderator: Prof. Archan Misra, Singapore Management University, Singapore) discussed the limits, due to challenges such as resource limitations, privacy, user interfaces, and data quality, of individual sensing paradigms observed in practice, and pointed out how the combined capabilities of participatory and infrastructure-based sensing can be effectively harnessed for novel urban computing applications.

In addition to the technical program, IEEE PerCom 2014 offered a rich social program, including a welcome reception

Best Paper Awards ceremony: David Hasenfratz (ETH Zurich), one of the authors representing the recepients of the Marc Weiser Best Paper Award and George Roussos, IEEE PerCom 2014 Technical Program Chair.

made by the Region Director and is approved by the MPD Director. The 2013 CAAs were awarded to the Malaysia Chapter for AP, the Sweden Chapter for EMEA, the Colombia Chapter for LA, and the San Diego Chapter for NA.

The Chapter of the Year (COY) Award is also given annually to one Chapter out of the four CAA winning Chapters. It is chosen by the MPD Board Committee. The 2013 COY Award was awarded to the San Diego Chapter (Chair: Zhensheng Zhang).

The Exceptional Chapter Performance Award is given to one Chapter for its consistent exceptional performance over three or more years. The 2013 winner was the Sweden Chapter (Chair: Tommy Svensson).

Bregni: *Chapter officers can meet periodically at Regional Chapter Chair Congresses. Would you tell us something more?*

Asatani: The Regional Chapter Chair Congress is held to encourage sharing, feedback, and networking among Chapter Chairs of a particular Region, inviting ComSoc Officers and Com-Soc Staff to meet the chairs and participate in the Congress. The RCCC is hosted by the Region Director in consultation with the MPD Director. The NA-RCCC was held during Globecom 2012, and the EMEA-RCCC was held during ICC 2013. It is held on-demand and usually it is not an annual event.

Bregni: *Student Travel Grants are a well established program, very appreciated by our members. Would you describe how they are assigned? What is their importance?*

Asatani: ComSoc Student Travel Grants (STG) are provided to help Student Members attend major IEEE ComSoc conferences. Conferences may also seek sources other than ComSoc STGs for travel grants, e.g. the NSF (National Science Foundation) program supports travel for students studying at a U.S. college or university.

The applicant must be:
- An author of an accepted conference paper who is presenting the paper at the conference.
- A Student Member of the IEEE Communications Society when submitting the application.
- A full-time student registered toward a Bachelors, Masters, or Ph.D. degree in engineering or related fields in a college or university when submitting the application.

Finally, the applicant must have not received an STG Award in the last 12-month period.

The STG awardees are selected by the STG Committee for each conference. The individual conference website will provide the instructions for the STG application as well as information

regarding the approval/notification process. The STG consists of a monetary award to be used for registration fees, conference hotel expenses, and travel costs, which is the most appreciated aspect of the STG Award.

In addition to the programs mentioned above, other programs contribute to membership development, such as Support for Young Professionals (former GOLD) to encourage and support the participation of young researchers and engineers, and Industry Now (INN) Programs to promote a more active presence from industry. These programs are facilitated with IEEE ComSoc flagship conferences such as Globecom and ICC.

We hope that MPD will further enhance these promotion and supportive programs in very efficient ways to meet environmental changes and evolving requirements from local Chapters worldwide

Bregni: *What are you plans for next steps now? What main goal would you like to pursue in the second year of your term?*

Asatani: It is not an easy question for me who experienced eight months of the first year. But I will try. This year we had a very fruitful discussions at the MPD Board meeting at ICC2014 in Sydney. The MPD Board meeting was held for the first time. Based on the agreements reached there, we proposed modifications of the guidelines for DLTs and DSPs. Both are very important and useful for IEEE ComSoc membership development and new membership creation. I would like to invite voices from Regions and Local Chapters to express their ideas for more flexible and more realistic approaches to membership development and creation.

I found that in some cases, the smooth continuation of local chapter activities is not easy when chapter chairs are replaced by new chairs. One of the targets of MPD will be to provide information for smooth and streamlined transitions, with no interruption between old and new chairs. The environments are continually changing. Also, the demands of members, local Chapters, and Regions are changing. We need to be very flexible and adaptable to meet these challenges.

It is my hope that MPD will be able to enhance these promotion and supportive MPD programs efficiently to meet environmental changes and evolving member requirements through all possible channels, in particular local Chapters worldwide.

and banquet. The banquet took place on a river boat cruising on the river Danube. As part of the gala ceremony, the following best paper awards of IEEE PerCom 2014 were announced: Marc Weiser Best Paper Award sponsored by Elsevier; Best Runner-up Paper Award; Best Ph.D. Forum Paper Award, and Best Demonstration Award, both sponsored by IEEE CS-TCPP; and Best Work-in-Progress Paper Award. The gala dinner was followed by an authentic Hungarian folk music and dance performance, which concluded with a joint dance together with the conference attendees.

IEEE PerCom 2014 was a highly successful event, with much positive feedback from attendees. We hope to see you next year in St. Louis at IEEE PerCom 2015.