"Balkan Scientific Vibes" – Report on the ICEST 2013 Conference

Following the long tradition dating back to 1963, at the 50th anniversary of the first "Day of the Radio", the Faculty of Technical Sciences at the "St. Kliment Ohridski" University in Bitola, Macedonia, took its turn to organize the XLVIII International Scientific Conference on Information, Communication and Energy Systems and Technologies (ICEST 2013) from June 26 to June 29, 2013, in joint cooperation with the Faculty of Electronic Engineering at the University of Niš, Serbia, and the Faculty of Telecommunications at the Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria. The conference was supported by the IEEE Republic of Macedonia Section and took place at the premises of the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality in Ohrid – one of only 29 mixed properties that are part of UNESCO's World Heritage, and are both Cultural and Natural sites.

The official start of the conference was the Opening Ceremony held on Thursday June 27. After a welcome speech of Prof. Cvetko Mitrovski, the general chairman of the conference, the participants and numerous guests were addressed by Prof. Bratislav Milovanović and Prof. Roumen Arnaudov, the conference vice chairmen, Prof. Goce Arsov, Chair of the IEEE Republic of Macedonia Section, Prof. Sašo Korunovski, the Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality, as well as Prof. Pere Aslimoski, vice-rector of the "St. Kliment Ohridski" University in Bitola. Within the opening session a plenary lecture on "Paraconsistent Annotated Logic Program and its Application to Intelligent Control" was given by Prof. Kazumi Nakamatsu from University of Hyogo, Japan.

Opening session chairmen   *Audience at the Opening Ceremony*

The main part of the Conference Program included presentations of the scientific papers with a wide range of topics: i) Radio Communications, Microwaves and Antennas; ii) Telecommunication Systems and Technology; iii) Signal Processing; iv) Digital Image Processing; v) Computer Systems and Internet Technologies; vi) Informatics and Computer Science; vii) Electronics; viii) Energy Systems and Efficiency; ix) Control Systems; x) Measurement Science and Technology; xi) Remote Ecological Monitoring, and xii) Engineering Education.

The peer review process was performed by an international board of conference reviewers, and the final selection was conducted by the Conference Program Committee. The total number of papers selected for presentation was 203, 91 of which were accepted for oral sessions and 112 for poster sessions. In total, there were 12 regular sessions, 12 poster sessions and company presentations.

All the papers were published in two-volume proceedings, whereas 17 author teams have been invited to submit revised and extended papers which are about to be released in a special issue of the „International Journal of Reasoning-based Intelligent Systems (IJRIS)" under the tentative title "Applied Formal Methods in Computer, Control, and Communications Systems" by "Inderscience Publishers" – a dynamic leading independent publisher of distinguished academic, scientific and professional journals.

Opening ceremony welcoming addressers

Plenwary talk

The conference program was rich in social events, as well. ICEST participants had the opportunity to visit the most important landmarks from the ancient, medieval and modern history of Ohrid – a city that is notable for once having had 365 churches, one for each day of the year, and has been referred to as "Jerusalem of the Balkans". The impressions were strengthened by the natural beauty of the shoreline of Lake Ohrid – one of Europe's deepest and oldest lakes, preserving a unique aquatic ecosystem that is of worldwide importance, with more than 200 endemic species. The conference gala dinner was organized at the end of the second conference day. Macedonian national cuisine, an orchestra performing Macedonian and international music, and, most importantly, cheerful guests made the evening memorable.

This forum continued the success of the series of previous ICEST conferences, providing pleasant atmosphere for academic discussions, exchange of experience and deeper networking among conference participants.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the authors, members of the Technical Program Committee and the Organizing Committee, reviewers, sponsors, exhibitors and all the colleagues who took part in the organization and participated at the conference itself.

Prof. *Cvetko Mitrovski,* ICEST 2013 General Chairman
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