



Newsletter

17th IFAC World Congress Final Report

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The Tables of Contents of the IFAC Journals can be found respectively at

Automatica
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/automatica>

Control Engineering Practice
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/conengprac>

Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/engappai>

Journal of Process Control
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jprocont>

Annual Reviews in Control
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/arcontrol>

Journal on Mechatronics
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/mechatronics>



Dong-Il „Dan“ Cho, IPC Chair

The 17th IFAC World Congress was held in Seoul, South Korea, from July 6 to July 11, 2008. As one of the most important meetings of the Automatic Control community, the IFAC World Congress is held every three years. Over 2,700 participants (professionals, managers and executives, engineers, scientists, students, and professors, who are all involved in the broad field of automatic control and its related fields) attended the 17th Congress. The Congress was a great opportunity for presenting new results and directions of automatic control theory, technology and applications.

The participants of the 17th IFAC World Congress had the opportunity to take part in a wide spectrum of technical programs: technical presentations (including plenary lectures, survey papers, regular papers of both lecture and poster types), milestone papers, and panel discussions. Tutorials and Workshops were also organized by renowned professors and leading researchers as a pre-congress program on selected topics. The topics included well-established techniques, and new and emerging issues in control and related areas.

In this and in the following issues of the IFAC Newsletter, we shall give an overview over some statistical facts as well as over the technical contents of the Congress.

Congress Statistics

The Congress was a great success in terms of number of submitted contributions and participants. Important Congress statistics are provided in the following table.

Papers submitted ¹⁾	3712
Papers accepted for the final program ²⁾	2716
Countries contributing to the program	72
Overall attendance	2741
Attendance from academia	2233
Attendance from industry	508
Countries of Corresponding Authors	65

^{1,2)} These figures include plenary papers, milestone reports, oral presentations, poster presentations. Industrial contributions were strongly encouraged for the Congress. Industrial participant had the choice of submitting a regular 6-page paper or a shorter 2-page brief industrial paper (87 submitted, 61 accepted).

Number of authors per country

The following table shows the 10 countries with the largest numbers of authors contributing to the Congress technical program

France	588
China	569
Korea	552
Japan	447
United States	392
Germany	334
Italy	249
Spain	243
United Kingdom	207
Taiwan	146

Plenary Sessions

In recent years, numerous new concepts and approaches and development methodologies and tools have emerged that enrich the current status in theory, technology and applications of automatic control, thus facilitating the advancement of future research and developments in an accelerated manner. In an effort to reflect all of these subject areas this World Congress features nine plenary talks; three from Europe, three from the US, and three from Asia. Three of them are from industries, one from each continent. These plenary talks were presented by the world's most eminent scholars chosen among sixty-nine nominees recommended by an ad hoc Plenary Board and CC/TC Chars of IFAC. The plenary papers addressed new concepts/approaches, development methodologies/tools, and current status/future direction in theory, technology and application of automatic control.

The first plenary speaker was **R. Brockett**, Harvard University, Cambridge, on "**Reduced Complex Nonlinear Control Systems**". The presentation discussed methods for the analysis and design of systems controlled. He focused on the role that feedback can play in simplifying the characterization of trajectories and, in particular, the extent to which elementary feedback rules based on finite state automata can be used to reduce the complexity of both the controller and the analysis. He introduced a new control paradigm based on randomized finite state controllers and present analysis of a class of such systems.

The second plenary speech was presented by **Captain E. Tarnowski**, an experimental test pilot, at Airbus, on "**Overview of Potential Evolutions of Technologies Applied in Commercial Transport Airplanes**". Automated systems assisting pilots in the achievement of their essential operating tasks have been one answer provided by the Airframe manufacturers to the problems raised by the

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present democratization of the Commercial Air Transport. The predicted evolutions of the world air traffic in the next two decades are extremely promising and challenging: Indeed they raise very severe issues in terms of airspaces saturation, in terms of air safety and efficiency, and last but not least in terms of environmental consequences. The next generation airplanes must and will represent a new technological step forward in the transport aviation industry in order to meet extremely demanding challenges.

In the plenary speech “**Robust Control in Biology: From Genes to Cells to Systems**” by **F. J. Doyle III**, University of California, Santa Barbara, challenges in the field of systems biology are outlined from the perspective of control and dynamical systems. These exquisite biophysical networks have enviable properties with regard to robustness to disturbances and uncertainty, as well as noise tolerance. Several examples used to motivate the ideas, including neurons controlling circadian rhythms, programmed cell death (apoptosis), and signaling pathways for glucose metabolism were introduced.

X.-R. Cao, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Kowloon, Hong Kong, presented “**Stochastic Learning and Optimization – A Sensitivity-Based Approach**”. He introduced a sensitivity-based view to the area of learning and optimization of stochastic dynamic systems. He showed that this sensitivity-based view provides a unified framework for many different disciplines in this area, including perturbation analysis, Markov decision processes, reinforcement learning, and identification and adaptive control. Many results can be simply derived and intuitively explained by using two performance sensitivity formulas. In addition, he showed that this sensitivity-based view opens up new directions for future research. For example, the event-based optimization, which has advantages over the state-based approaches, may be developed with this sensitivity-based view.

The presentation by **L. Ljung**, Linköping Universitet, Linköping, Sweden, described “**Perspectives on System Identification**”. System identification is the art and science of building mathematical models of dynamic systems from observed input-output data. It can be seen as the interface between the real world of applications and the mathematical world of control theory and model abstractions. As such, it is a ubiquitous necessity for successful applications. System identification is a very large topic, with different techniques that depend on the character of the models to be estimated: linear, nonlinear, hybrid, nonparametric etc. At the same time, the area can be characterized by a small number of leading principles, e.g. to look for sustainable descriptions by proper decisions in the triangle of model complexity, information contents in the data, and effective validation. The area has many facets, and there are many approaches and methods.

The recent issues and efforts on automation and control systems technology in the Korean shipbuilding industry were described in the plenary presentation, “**Automation and Control Systems Technology in Korean Shipbuilding Industry: The State of the Art and Future Perspectives**” by **K.-S. Min**, Vice Chairman and CEO/CTO of Hyundai Heavy Industries, Ulsan, Korea. The shipbuilding industry in Korea meets historic boom days owing to its timely investment and favorable business environment. To fortify the leading position in the global market, Korean ship construction companies have made hard efforts to improve productivity and quality through technological research and development. Thus, the

shipbuilding industry in Korea has been gradually transformed to a technology driven industry from a labor intensive one. He predicted that, in the near future, many innovative changes in shipbuilding are expected to come through convergence of technologies, and that the automation technology will play a key role during this process.

H. Kimura et al., The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research, Nagoya, Japan, introduces and discusses “**A Control-Theoretical Approach to Model-Based Medicine**”. The presentation discussed the notion of model-based medicine which is expected to give a solution to various difficulties in clinical medical systems based upon the familiar methodology of control science. The model-based medicine relies essentially on an integrated model of the visceral system of human body that includes various functional subsystems such as respiration, circulation, thermal, digestion, urinary, endocrine/neuronal systems as its component. He introduced an example of such integrated models of human body developed in the laboratory. Novel results which enhance the effect of therapy were presented concerning brain hypothermia treatments based on the model. Also, he proposed a new hypothesis on the cause of diabetes based on the integrated model, as well as clinical evidence. The real cause of elevation of blood glucose is the homeostasis of glucose concentrations in the brain. In other words, the elevation of blood sugar itself is not as harmful as people think, because it is an outcome of control of the brain sugar. Long-term effect of psychological stress was shown to cause diabetes based on the model.

The presentation, “**BigDog, The Rough-Terrain Quadruped Robot**”, by **M. Raibert et al.**, Boston Dynamics, Waltham, showed how the BigDog runs in rough terrain. Less than half the Earth's landmass is accessible to existing wheeled and tracked vehicles. But people and animals using their legs can go almost anywhere. The mission at Boston Dynamics is to develop a new breed of rough-terrain robots that capture the mobility, autonomy and speed of living creatures. Such robots will travel in outdoor terrain that is too steep, rutted, rocky, wet, muddy, and snowy for conventional vehicles. They will travel in cities and in our homes, doing chores and providing care, where steps, stairways and household clutter limit the utility of wheeled vehicles. Robots meeting these goals will have terrain sensors, sophisticated computing and power systems, advanced actuators and dynamic controls. He gave a status report on BigDog as an example of such rough-terrain robots.

“**SmartFactory – from Vision to Reality in Factory Technology**” was presented by **D. Zuehlke**, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. New technologies and products offer a broad range of new applications not only in the consumer but also the industrial world. A simple adaptation of existing technologies from the area of consumer goods appears tempting but, this would be inappropriate for industrial use in most cases. The SmartFactoryKL initiative was founded by many industrial and academic partners to create and operate a demonstration and research test bed for future factory technologies. Many projects develop, test, and evaluate new solutions. He showed the path that has been taken in Germany with the Smart FactoryKL initiative, to examine, test and develop technologies. He recommended it for use at other places. He asserted that the resources required are not to be underestimated and that success can only be realized through strong, interdisciplinary cooperation among industry, academia and government.

Awards at the IFAC Congress in Seoul, Korea

IFAC Advisors

According to the IFAC Constitution, the President has the right to appoint lifetime Advisors to IFAC. Many of the Advisors continue to have important roles in IFAC. Both, in an advisory function, as the name already implies, when they are consulted on fundamental issues concerning the Federation, and, very often also, in very active roles, such as e.g. as Chairs of Award Selection Committees, activities in connection with the IFAC Foundation or in the publications area. Most Advisors were either IFAC Presidents in the past or were appointed for other important and significant lifetime contributions to IFAC.

At this Congress, the President had the pleasure to appoint the following outstanding persons IFAC Advisors.

Vladimir Kucera



for outstanding leadership in IFAC as President and in many other executive functions

Peter Fleming



for outstanding contributions in managing the Executive Board activities of IFAC over many years

Thus, the list of Advisors now reads as follows:

Pedro Albertos
Brian D.O. Anderson
Peter Fleming
János Gertler
Gusztav Hencsey
Rolf Isermann
Stephen Kahne
Vladimir Kucera
Lennart Ljung
Michael Masten
Mohamed Mansour
Yoshikazu Sawaragi
Manfred Thoma
Tibor Vámos

IFAC Journal Awards

At every IFAC World Congress, awards are presented to the author(s) of papers published in the five IFAC Journals. The awarding took place on July 5, 2008, at a special ceremony organized in

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the framework of the Seoul Congress. The awards were presented jointly by representatives of IFAC and of Elsevier.

Automatica Paper Prizes

Given to authors of excellent papers on Surveys, Theory and Applications published in *Automatica*, funded by Elsevier

Survey Prize

Bilateral teleoperation: An historical survey
P.F. Hokayem and M.W. Spong, (December 2006)

Theory Prize

Optimal control of switching systems
S.C. Bengea and R.A. DeCarlo, (January 2005)

Application Prize

Static H_∞ loop shaping control of a fly-by-wire helicopter
E. Prempain and I. Postlethwaite, (September 2005)

Control Engineering Practice Paper Prizes

Given to authors of excellent papers published in *Control Engineering Practice*, funded by Elsevier

Evaluation study of an efficient output feedback nonlinear model predictive control for temperature tracking in an industrial batch reactor
Zoltan K. Nagy, Bernd Mahn, Rüdiger Franke, Frank Allgower (July 2007)

Identification and actual-vehicle verification of a successful dual model for a continuously variable transmission as described in, "Identification of a toroidal continuously variable transmission using continuous-time system identification methods"
M. Mensler, S. Joe, and T. Kawabe (January 2006)

Model derivation and development-experimental verification of a successful controller for a new chemical reactor as described in, "Modeling and control of a novel heat exchange reactor, the Open Plate Reactor"
S. Haugwitz, P. Hagander, and T. Norén, (July 2007)

Journal of Process Control Paper Prizes

Application Prizes

Modelling and control of a Fuel Cell System and Storage Elements in transport applications
Caux S., Lachaize J., Fadel M., Shott P., Nicod L., (April 2005)

Optimal selection of soft sensor inputs for batch distillation columns using principal component analysis
Zamprogna, E., Barolo, M., Seborg, D.E. (January 2005)

Theory Prize

Perspectives on the design and control of multi-scale systems
Braatz, R.D., Alkire, R.C., Seebauer, E., Rusli, E., Gunawan, R., Drews, T.O., Li, X., He, Y., (March 2006)

Survey Prizes

First-principles and direct design approaches for the control of pharmaceutical crystallization
Fujiwara M., Nagy Z.K., Chew J.W., Braatz R.D. (May 2005)

Feedback control for optimal process operation
Engell, S., (March 2007)

Mechatronics Journal Paper Prizes

Mechatronic design of an active printhead alignment mechanism for wide format printing systems

Notenboom, A., Bruijnen, D., Homburg, E., Molengraaf, R.v.d., Bedem, L.v.d., Steinbuch, M. (March-April 2007)

The concept of „Haptic Tweezer“, a non-contact object handling system using levitation techniques and haptics
van West, E., Yamamoto, A., Higuchi, T. (July 2007)

Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence Journal Paper Prize

Modelling of electrostatic fluidized bed (EFB) coating process using artificial neural networks
M. Barletta, A. Gisario, S. Guarino, (June 2007)

IFAC Congress Awards

Applications Paper Prize

Awarded and funded by IFAC to the best application paper presented at each IFAC World Congress from among five finalist papers. The winner is determined on the basis of the written and submitted paper and the presentation at the Congress.

The paper winning the Applications Paper Prize was

Vibration Damping of a Flexible Car Body Structure Using Piezo-Stack Actuators, by Christian Benatzky, Martin Kozek, Alexander Schirrer, & Anton Stribersky

Citation: For development of a vibration damping system for flexible car structures using Piezo-stack actuators

The other finalist papers were:
Disturbance Suppression beyond Nyquist Frequency in Hard Disk Drives, by Takenori Atsumi

Modeling Neural Spiking Activity in the Sub-Thalamic Nucleus of Parkinson's Patients and Healthy Primates by Emery N. Brown, Ming Cheng, Emad Eskandar, Sridevi V. Sarma, & Ziv Williams

Hybrid Intelligent Control for Optimal Operation of Shaft Furnace Process, by Tianyou Chai, Jinliang Ding, & Fenghua Wu

Physical-Model-Based Control of Engine Cold Start via Role State Variables, by Tomohiko Jimbo & Yoshikazu Hayakawa

Young Author Prize

Awarded and funded by IFAC to the best paper presented by an author younger than 35 years, at each IFAC World Congress from among five finalist papers. The winner is determined on the

basis of the written and submitted paper and the presentation at the Congress.

The paper winning the Young Author Prize was

Recursive Sparse Estimation using a Gaussian Sum Filter, by Lachlan Blackhall & Michael Rotkowitz

Citation: For developing a recursive estimator that uses a Gaussian-sum filter to achieve sparse parameter estimates

The other finalist papers were:

The Autocovariance Least Squares Technique for GPS Interference/Jamming Detection, by Mounoum Abdel-Hafez

Disturbance Suppression beyond Nyquist Frequency in Hard Disk Drives, by Takenori Atsumi

Integrated Analysis of Quality and Production Logistics Performance in Asynchronous Manufacturing Lines, by Marcello Colledani

Asymptotically Unbiased Average Consensus Under Measurement Noises and Fixed Topologies, by Tao Li

IFAC Congress Poster Paper Prize

Funded by the IFAC Congress and awarded to the best poster, determined on the basis of high technical quality and presentation at the Congress

The paper winning the IFAC Congress Best Paper Prize was

Multi-Scale Distributed Port-Hamiltonian Representation of Ionic Polymer-Metal Composite, by Gou Nishida, Kentaro Takagi, Bernhard Maschke, Zhiwei Luo

The other finalist papers were:

Impedance Compensation of Flexible Joint Actuator for Ideal Force Mode Control, by Kyoungchul Kong, Joonhbum Bae, Masayoshi Tomizuka

A MPC for Start-up Phase Tension and Looper Control in Hot Strip Finishing Mills Using Continuation Approach, by Shiro Masuda, Kazuya Asano, Kizuku Imai

Global Sensitivity Analysis of Biochemical Reaction networks Via Semidefinite Programming, by Steffen Waldherr, Rolf Findeisen, Frank Allgower

IFAC Congress Best Video Prize

Funded by the IFAC Congress and awarded to the best video, determined on the basis of high technical relevance, quality, video- and audio presentation

Only one paper was nominated and won this award:

A Mascot-type Facial Robot with a Linear Dynamic Affect-expression Model, by Sung Hui Lee, Jeong Woo Park, Su Hun Jo, Min-gyu Kim, Wonhyong Lee, Myung Jin Chung

Call for Fellow Nominations 2009

TO IFAC FELLOW NOMINATORS

If you plan to submit an IFAC Fellow Nomination, please find instructions below to assist you in this nomination process. Strict adherence to this procedure is essential; otherwise, a candidate may be placed at a serious disadvantage and possibly even excluded from consideration. For a list of IFAC Fellows elected so far, please go to the IFAC website at

<http://www.ifac-control.org/awards/ifac-fellows>

Nominator

Any person is eligible to serve as a nominator with the exception of members of the Fellows Selection Committee (FSC), and IFAC Council Members. The nominator is responsible for the information provided. The nominator is asked to read the Nominator Information, complete the Nomination Form according to the requirements given below and to alert the persons given as references that they have been named referees.

Fellow Nomination Forms (link see below) must reach the IFAC Secretariat (by e-mail: secretariat@ifac-control.org) by

December 31, 2008

Fellow Candidates

The IFAC Fellow award provides a distinction of excellence in the Federation and is conferred to a small number of outstanding scientists or engineers by the IFAC Council, based on the proposal of the Fellow Selection Committee (FSC). The FSC Committee shall consider:

1. Outstanding and extraordinary individual contributions in the fields of interest of IFAC in the role as an Engineer/Scientist, Technical Leader or Educator. These achievements shall be recorded as technical publications, patents, reports, systems products, applications, services and demonstrable teaching innovations.
2. Opinions of Fellow references.
3. Involvement in IFAC activities.

Any control scientist or engineer can be a candidate for the IFAC Fellow position. Exceptionally, he/she could have no prior involvement in IFAC activities, if he/she is very outstanding, but he/she should become involved in IFAC after becoming a Fellow. Current members of the Fellow Selection Committee (FSC) are not eligible to be considered as Fellow Candidates; in addition, the President and President -Elect of IFAC are not eligible to be nominated/considered for selection as Fellows, but other IFAC Council members could be nominated and selected. In this case, any candidate Council Members would be obliged to excuse themselves from any form of participation in any selection process of IFAC Fellows.

References

A nomination must be supported by at least three, but no more than five references from internationally reputed experts in the field who are aware of the Candidate's contributions. It is to be noted that the choice of references is important for the success of the candidate's nomination. Members of the IFAC Council and the Fellow Selection Committee are not eligible to serve as referees. If you have been asked to act as reference, please read the Reference Information and complete the Reference Form

Fellow Reference Forms must reach the IFAC Secretariat (by e-mail: secretariat@ifac-control.org) by

February 1, 2009

All the above mentioned documents, i.e. Call for Nominations 2009, Nominator Information, Nomination Form, Reference Information, Reference Form must be downloaded from the IFAC website at

<http://www.ifac-control.org/awards/fellow-nomination-2009>

In case of problems, please contact the IFAC Secretariat at secretariat@ifac-control.org

New Fellows Announcement

The election of newly elected Fellows will be announced shortly after the completion of the selection process carried out by the IFAC Council. IFAC will inform all candidates and their nominators of the election results by e-mail and/or first class mail. Nominators of unsuccessful candidates will be notified by e-mail and/or first class mail.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**2008
No. 5
Oct.**

Title	2008	Place	Further Information
IFAC Workshop 9th Intelligent Manufacturing Systems - IMS 2008	October 09 – 10	Szczecin Poland	http://ims08.ps.pl e-mail: ims08@ps.pl
IFAC Workshop 3rd Fractional Differentiation and its Applications – FDA'08	November 05 – 07	Ankara Turkey	http://www.cankaya.edu.tr/fda08 e-mail: fda08@cankaya.edu.tr
IFAC Workshop Logistics	December 05 – 06	Santiago Chile	http://www.ifac-iwl2008.co.cc/ e-mail: glefranc@ieee.org
Title	2009	Place	Further Information
IFAC Workshop Programmable Devices and Embedded Systems – PDeS 2009	February 10 – 12	Roznov Czech Rep.	http://pdes2009.vsb.cz e-mail: zdenek.slanina@vsb.cz
IMACS/IFAC Conference Mathematical Modelling – MATHMOD 09	February 11 – 13	Vienna Austria	http://www.mathmod.at/ e-mail: inge.troch@stadtkirche.at
IFAC Workshop Control Applications of Optimization CAO	May 06 – 08	Jyväskylä Finland	http://www.automaatioseura.fi/CAO'09 e-mail: office@atu.fi
IFAC Conference Fieldbuses and Networks in Industrial and Embedded Systems – FeT 2009	May 20 – 22	Ansan Korea	http://www.fet2009.org e-mail: fet2009@hanyang.ac.kr
IEEE/IFAC Intl. Workshop Robot Motion and Control - RoMoCo'09	June 01 – 03	Czerniejewo Poland	http://romoco.put.poznan.pl/ e-mail: krzysztof.kozlowski@put.poznan.pl
IFAC Symposium Information Control Problems in Manufacturing - INCOM 2009	June 03 – 05	Moscow Russia	http://incom09.org/ e-mail: noc@incom09.org
IFAC Workshop 2nd Dependable Control of Discrete Systems - DCDS'09	June 10 – 12	Bari Italy	http://dcds09.poliba.it e-mail: dcds09@deemail.poliba.it
IFAC Symposium Robust Control Design – ROCOND	June 16 – 18	Haifa Israel	http://www.technion.ac.il/~rocond09 e-mail: rocond09@technion.ac.il
IFAC Conference Analysis and Control of Chaotic Systems - CHAOS 2009	June 22 – 24	London UK	http://www.elec.qmul.ac.uk/chaos09 e-mail: chaos09@qmul.ac.uk
IFAC Workshop Aerospace Guidance, Navigation and Flight Control Systems - AGNFCS	June 30 - July 2	Samara Russia	http://www.ssc.smr.ru/agnfcs09.html e-mail: agnfcs09@ssc.smr.ru
IFAC Symposium Fault Detection, Supervision and Safety for Technical Processes – SAFEPROCESS	June 30 - July 3	Barcelona Spain	http://safeprocess09.upc.es/ e-mail: joseba.quevedo@upc.edu
IFAC/CIGRE Symposium Power Plants und Power Systems	July 05 - 08	Tampere Finland	http://pppsc09.automaatioseura.fi/ e-mail: office@atu.fi
IFAC Symposium Identification and System Parameter Estimation- SYSID'09	July 06 - 08	St. Malo France	http://www.sysid2009.org/ e-mail: secretariat@sysid2009.org
IFAC Symposium Advanced Control of Chemical Processes ADCHEM 2009	July 12 - 15	Istanbul Turkey	http://www.adchem09.ku.edu.tr/ e-mail: dburak@ku.edu.tr
IFAC Symposium Modelling and Control in Biological and Medical Systems – MCBMS 09)	August 12 – 14	Aalborg Denmark	http://www.mcbms09.hst.aau.dk/ e-mail: mcbms09@hst.aau.dk
European Control Conference - in cooperation with IFAC -	August 23 – 26	Budapest Hungary	http://www.conferences.hu/ecc09/ e-mail: ecc09@conferences.hu
IFAC Symposium Control in Transportation Systems - CTS 2009	September 02 – 04	Redondo Beach CA, USA	http://ee.usc.edu/CTS09 e-mail: ioannou@usc.edu
IFAC Symposium Robot Control. – SYROCO 2009	September 10 – 12	Gifu Japan	http://www.syroco2009.org/ e-mail: syroco2009_office@syroco2009.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS (ctd.)

IFAC Conference Analysis and Design of Hybrid Systems - ADHS 0	September 16 – 19	Zaragoza Spain	http://diisconf.cps.unizar.es/adhs09/web/ e-mail: adhs09@unizar.es
IFAC Workshop Mining, Mineral and Metal Industry	October 21 – 23	Viña del Mar Chile	http: to be announced e-mail: to be announced
Title	2010	Place	Further Information
IFAC Symposium Large Scale Systems: Theory and Applications – LSS 2010	July 11 – 14	Villeneuve, d'Ascq France	http://lss2010.ulbsibiu.ro/ e-mail: p.borne@ec-lille.fr
IFAC Symposium Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing	August 02 – 04	Cape Town South Africa	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Nonlinear Control Systems – NOLCOS 2010	September 01 - 03	Bologna Italy	http://www.nolcos2010.unibo.it/ e-mail: Imarconi@deis.unibo.it
IFAC Symposium Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles - IAV	September 06 - 08	Lecce Italy	http://iav2010.unile.it/ e-mail: iav2010@unile.it
IFAC Conference Management and Control of Production and Logistics – MCPL-201	September 08 – 10	Coimbra Portugal	http://www.dei.uc.pt/MCPL2010 e-mail: to be announced
IFAC Symposium Mechatronic Systems	September 13 – 15	Boston, MA USA	http:// to be announced e-mail: to be announced

The IFAC Secretariat Inside

The IFAC family is literally growing. Our Secretary, Kurt Schlacher, has recently got married. We wish him, and his wife all the best for their future life together.

Barbara Aumann has recently become a grandmother of a lovely boy, born exactly on Christmas Eve 2007. Congratulations to Barbara and of course to the mother of the boy. As is very befitting, the father is a control engineer. Also, Barbara has this year completed 30 years of service for IFAC. The IFAC Council thanked and congratulated her on the occasion of its meeting in Seoul, Korea.

About Ernestine Rudas – no news is good news!

The IFAC Secretariat has acquired a new member. Harald Albrecht joined the Secretariat in 2006.



Harald Albrecht

The growing requirements of technological development have made it necessary to augment the administrative staff by someone who is skilled in programming and systems administration. Gradually, the tasks of Harald Albrecht have grown, starting with the reprogramming of the IFAC website, the development of the IFAC database and, more recently with the programming of the website for the IFAC Foundation, and the TC websites. As you may have noticed, the past two

months were busy with transferring the TC websites to the IFAC webserver. The next task will be the development of the TB website. All this is necessary to get all applications, relevant for the administrative operation of IFAC, to one site – at the IFAC Secretariat. This will, in the future, prevent shutdowns of systems at the end of a triennial period. Harald Albrecht started as part-time employee of the Secretariat, but is now working practically full time. Before joining IFAC he freelanced as system developer and administrator, partly also for the Austrian Academy of Sciences. This is also how we got to know him and finally employed him. In these days of complete automation and computerization it is very important to have a staff member who is up to date on all these technological developments on the one hand and who is there to support the other staff members who operate the new systems.

But Harald Albrecht is not only a computer expert, he is also a jazz aficionado. He knows the jazz world inside out, has many friends in this area and free-lances as recording director at jazz concerts. Besides that he enjoys traveling, hiking and reading.

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Transition

George Axelby
March 1922 – June 2008



It is with great sadness that IFAC reports on the passing of George Axelby, one of the most significant and outstanding personalities in Automatic Control.

In IFAC, George will be remembered and valued as the person who accompanied and put his stamp of the first IFAC Journal AUTOMATICA, of which he was the founding editor in 1969. After fourteen years of Editorship in which he developed AUTOMATICA into the leading control journal worldwide he handed a well established and renowned journal to his successor as editor-in-chief.

For those who knew him personally, George Axelby will always be remembered as one of the Founding Fathers of publications in Automatic Control on the one hand, and a warm-hearted person for whom friendship was of utmost importance.