

IFAC 2026 World Congress Update

A diverse and engaging array of technical and social programs is rapidly taking shape for the 2026 IFAC World Congress. We invite you to take this opportunity to visit Busan, Korea, and participate in the largest gathering of our community, held every three years. The paper and proposal submission opens in June and closes on November 26. For the latest updates, please visit ifac2026.org.



Confirmed Items

Renewed Keywords for Technical Committee (TC), and Cross-cutting/New Areas: The 2026 Congress will feature updated keywords for all 39 TCs. Since 2023, the Technical Board (TB) has undertaken a comprehensive reevaluation of IFAC's technical activities, leading to a renewed focus for each TC. In addition, the TB, in collaboration with a Presidential Task Force (TF), has identified topics that span multiple TCs, such as AI and data-driven methods, as cross-cutting areas. Furthermore, the TF and the Congress's IPC have highlighted additional emerging technical areas for IFAC to explore. These new and updated topical areas will be available when the submission site launches in June, with the keywords directly accessible from the site.

Open-Invited-Track: Open Invited Tracks (OITs) offer an excellent opportunity to bring together researchers from around the world working on a common theme. Unlike regular invited sessions, OITs are open to all contributors, and anyone may submit a paper to a track once its list is posted on the Congress website in late September. If you are interested in organizing an OIT, you may submit a proposal by following the guidelines available on the Congress website. The submission deadline for the proposal is 16 September 2025.

Discussion Rooms: We understand that the core of the Congress is meeting and engaging in meaningful technical discussions. To support this, we will provide dedicated discussion

rooms at the Congress venue. These rooms will be available by reservation and equipped with power outlets and whiteboards for your private meetings.

Drone Light Show: It has been over 60 years since IFAC was founded and the first World Congress was held in 1960. Since then, the ideas and technologies developed by our community have helped advance engineering and improve people's lives. To celebrate this achievement, a special Drone Light Show will be held right after the Welcome Reception at Busan Cinema Center (the venue for the annual Busan International Film Festival). 500 drones will light up the night sky over Busan, drawing key concepts and symbols from control theory, and showing the robots that are powered by these ideas. The show is supported by Uvify (uvify.com), a leading company in drone show technology.

Live recording of the podcast "inControl": inControl is a podcast series dedicated to exploring the latest ideas, challenges, and breakthroughs in control theory and systems engineering (in-controlpodcast.com/), hosted by Prof. Alberto Padoan. Come and see how an episode is recorded—and let your applause become part of the recording!

IFAC Control Orchestra: First introduced at the 2020 World Congress, the performance of the IFAC Control Orchestra has become a tradition, featuring musicians who are all control engineers—except for the conductor. For the 2026 Congress, Mr. Yoonhak Baek will join as a special guest conductor. He brings a unique background in both engineering and music, hav-

The IFAC Conference App is available!

The App is paid for by IFAC and can be used free of charge by IFAC conference organizers and attendees.

How to download:
App Store apple.co/3mpaER7
Google Play bit.ly/3lazFjx
Web version ifac.floq.live

You can also search for 'IFAC' in the Apple App Store or in the Google Play Store.

Login is shared with the IFAC Affiliates Portal. There is no need for double registration.

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June 2025

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Upcoming IFAC Conferences

The IFAC Journals

Automatica

journals.elsevier.com/automatica

Control Engineering Practice

journals.elsevier.com/control-engineering-practice

Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence

journals.elsevier.com/engineering-applications-of-artificial-intelligence

Journal of Process Control

journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-process-control

Annual Reviews in Control

journals.elsevier.com/annual-reviews-in-control

Journal on Mechatronics

journals.elsevier.com/mechatronics

Nonlinear Analysis: Hybrid Systems

journals.elsevier.com/nonlinear-analysis-hybrid-systems

IFAC Journal of Systems & Control

journals.elsevier.com/ifac-journal-of-systems-and-control

IFAC-PapersOnLine

journals.elsevier.com/ifac-papersonline

ing earned his degree in Electrical Engineering from Seoul National University and gained professional conducting experience with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. Prof. Julian Berberich and Prof. Pilwon Hur will serve as global and local coordinators, respectively. If you are interested in joining the orchestra, please refer to the Congress website for more information.

Items under Development

Back-to-Basics Tutorial: The field of control engineering has seen remarkable progress over the past 60 years, driven by groundbreaking research and innovation. Along the way, pioneering experts have established the foundational principles that shape the field today. Now, it is time for the next generation to stand on the shoulders of these giants. Yet, it is not always easy to decide whose shoulders to stand on—or how quickly one should climb up. This tutorial is designed to address that challenge. It takes the form of an overview, much like Chapter 1 of a monograph of specific topics. We are currently inviting these leading experts to serve as speakers.

Journal options: We are currently working with several IFAC-affiliated journals to offer a journal option, which allows papers reviewed for the Congress to also be considered for publication in a special issue of the journal. This coordinated review process enables authors to benefit both from presenting their work at the Congress and from publishing it in prestigious IFAC journals through an accelerated review timeline. Once the policy is finalized, details will be posted on the Congress website.

Benchmark problems and Competitions: Benchmark problems will be posted on the Congress website. Anyone is welcome to participate by solving the posted problem and submitting a short discussion paper. The winners will be recognized by the organizing committee during the Congress. One confirmed benchmark problem so far is titled *“Thermal Management Problem for Connected EVs”*, organized by Prof. Tielong Shen and collaborators from both academia and industry, including Toyota Motor Corporation, Hyundai Motor Company, and Hitachi Astemo. Competitions will also take place during the Congress, allowing the audience to watch the events live on-site. One confirmed competition program is the Mini Drone Competition, hosted by MathWorks. We still receive the proposals for benchmark problems and competitions.

Gala Dinner: The banquet will feature a live performance by a popular K-pop singer, turning the evening into a memorable dinner show. To make it feel like a mini concert, we are currently coordinating the singer's schedule with her TV commitments.

Sponsors: Confirmed financial supporters include Busan Metropolitan City (Diamond), Hyundai Motor Company (Platinum Plus), Jungsung Engineering, Park Systems, Koh Young Technology, and RS Automation (Platinum), as well as Seongnam Chamber of Commerce &

Industry, ISC, Yujin Robot, Rainbow Robotics, and Silicon Mitus (Gold). We are also in discussion with additional prospective sponsors. More features and programs will be added as the Congress approaches. The Congress is organized by IFAC and ICROS, the Korean National Member Organization (NMO) of IFAC.

The city of Busan

Busan, the second-largest city in Korea, is a beautiful destination located at the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula. The city is known for its many public beaches, with Haeundae Beach and Gwangalli Beach being among the most popular. These two welcoming beaches are located just 2.2 km and 2.6 km, respectively, from the Congress venue—BEXCO (Busan Exhibition and Convention Center). In fact, the logo of the 2026 Congress was inspired by the cool, gentle waves of the Pacific Ocean near Busan. Curious to see more? Try searching “Busan” (not the movie “Train to Busan”) on YouTube.

Important Dates

IFAC PaperPlaza submission site opens: June 2025

Open Invited Track/Invited session proposals: 16 Sept 2025

All regular papers due: 26 November 2025

Workshop/Tutorial proposal due: 31 January 2026

Late-breaking/Discussion/Dissemination papers: 28 February 2026

Notification of acceptance: mid-April 2026

Final paper submission: 15 May 2026

Congress dates: 23 - 28 August 2026

Social Media and Website
More updates will appear at:

- X: x.com/IFAC2026

- Facebook:

facebook.com/IFAC26/

- LinkedIn:

linkedin.com/company/ifac2026/

And the main website:

ifac2026.org

Submitted by: Hyungbo Shim (KR), IFAC 2026 General Chair

This Newsletter may be reproduced in whole or in part.

We encourage electronic distribution of this Newsletter, as well as reprinting in national and local automatic control periodicals.

Acknowledgement to IFAC would be appreciated.

From the IFAC President

Dear IFAC Friends and Colleagues,

In this edition, I would like to highlight significant IFAC activities led by various teams: the TF on Evaluation of Technical Board (TB) Structure headed by Carlos Pereira, the TF on Future Technical Directions headed by Robert Bitmead, and the 2026 IFAC World Congress team led by Hyungbo Shim, Hyosung Ahn, and Hyon Jin Kim. Together, yet independently, they have evaluated current technical areas and explored future directions for IFAC. This work is critical, as the current TB structure, established in 2002, has only undergone minor adjustments until now.

First, the TF on Future Technical Directions has identified the need for topics that cut across multiple TCs and recommended the creation of a new TB Vice-Chair role. This Vice-Chair will focus on internal coordination within the TB and external outreach.

Second, the TF on Evaluation of TB Structure has conducted a comprehensive review of TC activities and keywords. The TF members include two TB Vice-Chairs (Alessandro Astolfi and Dawn Tilbury) and nine CC Chairs, who worked closely with 39 TC Chairs to produce a refined list of keywords for all 39 TCs and identify two additional areas for IFAC engagement. The list includes 530 refined keywords, which will be used for submissions to the 2026 IFAC World Congress. These keywords are already implemented on the 2026 World Congress homepage and the IFAC PaperPlaza Conference Manuscript Management System. The TB will continue refining these keywords, and updates will be reflected on the TC webpages soon. Additionally, a modified TB structure will be discussed at the Council Meeting in 2025.

The 2026 Congress team has identified a few emerging areas for IFAC, such as Quantum Systems and Control, GenAI/LLMs for Robotics and Control, and Fully Actuated Systems and Control, which are not currently covered by the TB. These topics have generated additional, non-overlapping keywords, expanding the existing list of 530 keywords. We encourage authors to pay special attention to these topics and submit their contributions. This will be critical for IFAC's expansion into these new areas.

Through numerous online and offline meetings, we have achieved these milestones. I believe these advancements will inspire more cohesive and meaningful activities across IFAC. For the Busan World Congress in 2026, in particular, these improvements will lead to more clearly defined and focused technical sessions, as well as horizon-opening new areas. Please join me in thanking all the TF members, who generously gave enormous amounts of time to make this possible.

Finally, I would like to invite all control engineers and scientists to join us at the Busan World Congress in 2026 and celebrate these milestones together.

Sincerely,

Dong-Il “Dan” Cho,
IFAC President 2023-2026

Updates from IFAC National Member Organizations (NMOs)

GERMANY

Dr. Christine Maul is the New Chair of the VDI/VDE Society for Measurement and Automation Technologies (the German IFAC NMO). Since January 1, 2025, Dr. Christine Maul has been serving as Chair of the VDI/VDE Society for Measurement and Automation Technologies (GMA). She succeeds Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h.c. Michael Weyrich, who led the society for several years with great dedication and success.

In her new role, Christine Maul contributes extensive technical expertise and international experience. "I am very grateful for the trust placed in me. It is a great honor and responsibility to help shape the work of the VDI/VDE-GMA," Maul stated. "Together with the advisory board and the executive team, I aim to actively shape the future of measurement and automation technology and further strengthen the society."

Born in 1965 in Darmstadt, Maul began her academic career with a pre-diploma in chemical engineering at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), followed by a Master of Science and a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, USA. She began her professional career in 1994 at Bayer AG in Leverkusen, later holding various leadership positions at Bayer and Covestro Deutschland AG. Currently, she heads the global "Advanced Process Control" team, responsible for control engineering in production.



Maul has been actively involved in VDI for many years. Since 2019, she has been a member of the GMA's executive board and advisory board. Previously, she was active in the program committee of the Automation Congress. Her expertise is reflected in numerous publications and projects, including a publication on autonomous systems (2019), a press conference on sustainability (2022), and her involvement in the future study *Automation 2035*, which is expected to be published in July 2025.

UKRAINE

Last year (2024) the main event of the UA IFAC NMO *Ukrainian Association of Automatic Control - UAAC* was the international scientific conference on automatic control "Automation-2024". Around 200 reports were presented at the conference in the following areas:

1. Mathematical problems of control, optimization and theory of dynamic games.
2. Applied nonlinear analysis, multivalued mappings and their applications.
3. Control and identification under uncertainty.
4. Optimization of complex systems, numerical methods.
5. Control of technical, technological and bio-technical objects.
6. Control of aerospace, marine and other moving objects.
7. Robotics and mechatronics.
8. Internet of things and embedded systems.
9. Intelligent systems and technologies.
10. Distributed and parallel computing.
11. Problems of reliability and information security of control systems

The conference was held in person, and there was also an opportunity to participate in the conference remotely. Thanks to this, famous scientists from other countries from Germany, Israel, the USA, Uzbekistan, and other countries, took part in the conference work.

The most interesting works are currently being prepared for publication in two paper collections, which are planned to be published by River Publishers. Articles not included in these collections are planned to be published in the leading Ukrainian journal on automatic control. The journal is published regularly. Negotiations for its inclusion in the international scientific metric databases *Web of Science* and *Scopus* are progressing successfully.



The Ukrainian AAC is expanding the number of its members. Applications from scientific and educational organizations, individual scientists are under consideration.

Due to the continuation of military actions on the territory of Ukraine, as well as the associated restriction of funding for science, the participation of Ukrainian scientists in international conferences held abroad has decreased. However, joint work and contacts with foreign organizations in the field of automatic control continue.

With best regards, Chairman of the UAAC
Arkadiy Chikriy

Editor's Note: IFAC AMOs and NMOs were invited via email to submit updates about their organization. Those who have not done so are encouraged to provide them to the Newsletter team via newsletter@ifac-control.org.

Updates from IFAC Associated Member Organizations (AMOs)

The Lebanese IFAC AMO for Lebanon *Lebanese IFAC Chapter* proudly presents their new logo.



IFAC Affiliates Portal Statistics

affiliates.ifac-control.org/

As of the date of June 6, 2025, the IFAC database contains 8399 affiliates. 47% of these (3975) registered to the new IFAC Portal and thereby provide useful data about IFAC volunteers around the globe. New affiliates register regularly and are accepted manually by the IFAC Secretariat after a quick verification aiming at avoiding (a) duplicate profiles for the same person, (b) artificial affiliations of people outside of the Automatic control field. For fast processing of your affiliation, it is recommended that you provide a link to a web page that illustrates your activities in the field.

In the October 2024 issue of the Newsletter, we reported about the main countries/regions in IFAC in terms of registered affiliates. As the number of registrations grows the list of countries with more than 100 affiliates has increased: USA 471, France 391, Germany 279, Italy 265, Japan 213, China 206, Spain 149, UK 133, Netherlands 132, Brazil 123, Turkey 121.

Affiliates are invited to select among all provided data, what data is kept private (visible only to Secretariat for statistics), made IFAC public (visible to all registered affiliates) or Web public (visible to any visitor of the IFAC Portal). In July 2024 the IFAC Council voted that all people having official roles in IFAC higher than TC Member shall have their names automatically made at least IFAC Public. Among all registered affiliates 26% are Web Public, 29% are IFAC Public and the remaining 45% are Private.

In terms of IFAC Public (including Web Public) affiliates, the same list of countries ranks as follows: France 153, USA 123, Italy 100, Germany 77, China 59, Spain 55, Brazil 53, Japan 53, Netherlands 53, UK 34, Turkey 38. The figures drop as we look at only Web Public affiliates: France 91, Italy 62, USA 60, Netherlands 29, Spain 29, Brazil 28, China

28, Germany 24, UK 22, Japan 21, Turkey 17.

In the December 2024 issue of the Newsletter, we reported in detail about the number of registered affiliates interested in the topics of each Technical Committee. While the numbers increase in all topics, the percentages remain stable illustrating the fact that the sample of registered colleagues is rather representative. CC2 (59%) and CC1 (54%) are the most selected Coordinating Committees with more than half of affiliates being interested in the core methodological areas. All other CCs are fully relevant as they attract interest from 21% (CC8) up to 38% (CC7) of registered affiliates.

In the February 2025 issue of the Newsletter, we reported about the gender statistics and in the latest April 2025 issue we reported about the career stage of affiliates. These statistics show strong variations depending on countries.

If you are interested in any statistics for the future Newsletter issues, please do not hesitate to suggest a topic on which to focus by writing to newsletter@ifac-control.org. This email address is read by IFAC VP Operations Dimitri Peaucelle and IFAC Secretariat staff member Elske Haberl.

As mentioned in earlier issues of the Newsletter, IFAC will erase the data concerning affiliates who never connected to the Portal. This was initially planned for January 2025 and is postponed for technical reasons but will apply in the near future.

Transition: Huibert Kwakernaak

We are moved by the sad news that recently Professor Huibert Kwakernaak (Huib) passed away at the age of 87 years. The impact of Huib as a professor in Applied Mathematics cannot be overestimated. Huib completed his doctoral thesis Optimal Control with random Inputs in 1963 at the University of California- Berkeley (US). Thereafter he worked as an Associate Professor at the Technical University Delft (NL).



Huib came from Delft, to Twente in 1970, together with Rens Strijbos, where he founded the research group Systems and Control, nowadays MAST. His initial appointment was Professor Stochastic Mathematical Physics. With Arun Bagchi, Geert Jan Olsder (till 1982), Arjan van der Schaft, Henk Nijmeijer, Jan Willem Pol-derman, Hans Zwart, and, later, his former PhD

student Gjerrit Meinsma, the group grew in scientific reputation to the point that it belonged to the top of the world in Systems and Control. Emphasis on quality

What counted for Huib was 'quality'. Indeed, all of these appointments were not necessarily in line with his own research interests. In fact, Huib made it very clear that a newly appointed staff member should develop his/her own research line. This emphasis on quality was also expressed in his view on teaching: you can only be a good teacher if you fully understand the subject.

Huib was a nationally and internationally leading control scientist. He was a Fellow of the IEEE, a Fellow of IFAC, and held the Distinguished Service Award of IFAC. His book with Ravi Sivan on linear optimal control theory, written in his early days in Twente and published in 1972, has been the leading international reference on this subject for many years. Huib also served as the director of the national research school on systems and control (DISC). In a sense Huib was a pragmatic engineer. At the same time, he did not have the slightest fear for abstract mathematics as long as he could use it in his own research. At such occasions he could evolve from an ignorant beginner to a leading expert within weeks.

Determining a grade: Huib was a dedicated teacher, deeply respected by the students. He acted as responsible professor for more than 130 students and quite a few graduate students. If the daily supervision was done by one of the other group members, then Huib confined himself to his legal duties as a full professor and made sure that all credits went to the actual supervisor.

Huib introduced a special way of determining the graduation grade. The discussion about the grade was done in the presence of the student, a very transparent procedure. At one occasion, the student was awarded a seven – a nice grade, but the student objected. He pointed out that the central theorem, including its nontrivial proof, was completely his work. Huib asked the supervisor whether that was true and the supervisor confirmed the claim made by the student. In his reaction, Huib was just happy to change the grade into an eight.

Huib and the Dutch Institute of Systems and Control: Huib was, after his appointment in Twente, one of the leading persons for Systems and Control in the Netherlands, who contrary to the traditions, was affiliated to a mathematics department (like also Malo Hautus, Jan Willems, Ruth Curtain and Jan van Schuppen). Together with a few of the 'engineering' professors (e.g. Okko Bosgra, Pieter Eykhoff) they initiated the idea of a graduate school in the Netherlands, following the example they had seen during their education in the USA. This firstly led to the Benelux Meeting jointly with the systems and control colleagues from Belgium that was held for the first time in 1981 in Lunteren, and which has been continued annually since then. It also led to the forming of

the Network Systeem- en Regeltheorie in 1987, as a predecessor of DISC. This truly marked the idea of a national graduate school with joint lectures in Utrecht for junior researchers from all (technical) universities one day per week. It was soon succeeded, in 1995, by the forming of the Dutch Institute of Systems and Control, a national Research School, with Huib as its first scientific director. The creation of national research schools caused a lot of political turmoil between participating (technical and non-technical) universities, but despite that, Huib as scientific director of DISC managed as professor at the University of Twente to bring DISC-affiliated to the Technical University of Delft- in calmer seas. DISC has been and still is a pillar for the field of systems and control, which has been marked by several larger national grants and the accreditation by the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences as a national research school. DISC is greatly thankful for Huib's role in its creation and first periods of its existence.

Classical professor and early adapter

Huib took his responsibility as a thesis advisor very seriously. His PhD students invariably experienced his punctuality and reliability. He would always meticulously read the drafts of his PhD students. In a sense, Huib was a classical professor, his PhD students were not expected to approach him on a first name basis. On the other hand, one PhD student remembered that Huib called him on the day after his defence that now that he was a doctor, he could call him Huib. One other PhD student who was externally supervised explained that at his thesis defence Huib, being the official promotor, had to read the laudatio. After having fulfilled his duty Huib publicly added that his only contribution was indeed reading the laudatio after which he expressed his sincere appreciation to the actual supervisor.

Huib was what we would now call an early adapter. He could not wait to apply and use new technologies. In that spirit he regularly took the stroll to the computer science building to use their modern laser printers long before the existence of such printers was considered relevant at the Applied Mathematics department. He contributed himself by introducing a sophisticated, yet user-friendly paper upload system, which he baptised Pampus, for the journal *Automatica*.

Huib's second innings: About the time when Huib retired from Twente (2001), the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) was looking to improve on their partially web-based, but mostly paper-based peer review system. Since the CSS was familiar with Pampus, Huib was asked to see if Pampus could be adopted to support conferences. However, he was not very familiar with the IEEE conferences, so to assist him, Pradeep Misra (Emeritus Wright State University) was asked to collaborate with him. Together they determined that trying to retrofit Pampus to support conferences was quite impractical, which led to the foundation work of what became PaperPlaza. On several occasions Huib commented how he considered it fortuitous

that his retirement coincided with need for the developing PaperPlaza, giving him the means to exercise his programming skills. He dove headlong into the project. Every technical aspect was clearly identified, debated and implemented with precision. Within 6 months, a preliminary version of PaperPlaza was ready to be used and without any concerns, the CSS commissioned it for use at the 2003 Conference on Decision and Control.

The PaperPlaza system has been in continuous development since its first implementation, along the way Huib added features to it that allowed a large variety of conferences to use it with their diverse requirements. Further enhancements made is usable for journals as well, and as a result Pampus was retired in favor of PaperPlaza. Huib continued to contribute in the development of PaperPlaza till late 2024.

Huib's philosophy was "no problem is too big to solve, and no detail too small to ignore." This philosophy was reflected in his wide spread scientific contributions as well as in his passion for programming when developing PaperPlaza. We remember Huib as a very dedicated scholar with great impact on the local, national and international level.

Remembered by: Henk Nijmeijer, UT 1983-2000
Jan Willem Polderman, UT 1987-2023
Arjan van der Schaft, UT 1982-2005
Hans Zwart, UT 1988-present
Gjerrit Meinsma, former PhD student of Huib, UT 1997-present
Pradeep Misra, Papercept Inc.

Photograph provided by Pradeep Misra

IFAC Activity Fund Report "IFAC Latin American Women in Control Engineering" October 2024 Santiago, CL

IFAC Latin American Women in Control Engineering (IFAC LA-WICE) meeting: On October 20, 2024, the inaugural Latin American Meeting of Women in Control Engineering took place, bringing together over 40 women—students and professionals—from Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Peru. This event was held during the IEEE ICA ACCA 2024 conference in Santiago, Chile. It was made possible with the financial support of the IFAC Activity Fund, with which scholarships could be awarded to bring people from other countries/regions to Chile.

Activity Organizer: Dra. Karina A. Barbosa, Department of Electrical Engineering, Universidad de Santiago de Chile; karina.barbosa@usach.cl.

IFAC Sponsor: Asociación Chilena de Control Automático, NMO IFAC for Chile

Description: On October 20, 2024, the inaugural Latin American Meeting of Women in Control Engineering took place, bringing together over 40 women—students and professionals—from Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Peru. This event was held during the IEEE ICA

ACCA 2024 conference in Santiago, Chile. It was made possible with the financial support of the IFAC Activity Fund, with which scholarships could be awarded to bring people from other countries to Chile.

The day began with a warm welcome and lunch, followed by a panel discussion featuring leading experts Dra. Patricia Pena (co-founder of the "Mulheres na Automatica" (Women in Automatica) at the Brazilian Society of Automatica), Dra. Lizeth Torres (President of Asociación Mexicana de Control Automático, Mexico), and Ledly Henriquez (Manager of SHH Electrónica Industrial Chile) and moderated by Dra. Karina A. Barbosa (President of IEEE Control System Chapter Chile and treasure of Asociación Chilena de Control Automático). These distinguished panelists shared their insights on the challenges and opportunities facing women in control engineering in Latin America.

Following the panel, participants engaged in collaborative group discussions and dynamic activities, exploring strategies to promote female leadership in STEM fields. The afternoon session focused on sharing experiences and brainstorming ideas to attract more women to engineering, from primary education to university and professional levels.

One significant outcome of the meeting was the formation of the Latin American Network of Women in Control Engineering. This network aims to foster collaboration, share initiatives, and increase the number of women in the field of control engineering.



Some feedback from the participants:

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in such an amazing meeting, it was really moving to be heard and hear other women's experiences, relate to them, feel the support, and that I'm not alone. I hope we can all meet again in future meetings." (Postgraduate student from Colombia)

"I would like to express my deep gratitude for being invited to participate in the IFAC LA-WICE in Chile, especially for receiving the scholarship that made my attendance possible. The warm hospitality and flawless organization of the team made every moment an enriching experience. It was inspiring to be surrounded by brilliant women, sharing experiences and strengthening our space in control engineering. This meeting not only expanded my academic horizons but also brought meaningful changes to my personal life, reinforcing my confidence and motivation to continue on this journey."

(Brazilian undergraduate student)

"Personally, the meeting of women in automation and control was an inspiring experience. It allowed me to hear firsthand the testimonies of women who are also working in this field, which, as an undergraduate student, motivated me to continue striving to get more women into this field and to inspire girls and young women to study similar careers. At this meeting, I discovered professions I had never heard of and was able to appreciate the work of female researchers, which was very enriching for me since I am also beginning to delve into the world of scientific research. I deeply appreciate the support of the organization, which allowed me to be there as a scholarship holder, making this valuable experience possible." (Peruvian undergraduate student)

"It was an incredible initiative, enabling many women from different countries to participate. I had never seen anything like it before. Congratulations to everyone involved. I hope the efforts for these events continue." (Brazilian postdoc)

The event was a resounding success, inspiring and empowering participants. We are thrilled to see the enthusiasm and dedication of young women who aspire to excel in academia and industry. Let's continue to create inclusive spaces for women in engineering and STEM!

The photograph published in the IFAC Newsletter with this report shows the IFAC LA WICE organizing committee and the invited panelists. From right to left, the people in the photo are Ledly Henriquez (Chile), María Coronel (Chile), Lizeth Torres (México, President AMCA), Karina A. Barbosa (Chile), Patricia Pena (Brazil), and Mario Fernandez (Chile, President ACCA). A video of the event can be found at: [instagram.com/reel/DBZn2Z6yM0E/?igsh=aGx2dXlpY2c5Z2c%3D](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DBZn2Z6yM0E/?igsh=aGx2dXlpY2c5Z2c%3D).

This report was originally published on the page of the IFAC Activity Fund Committee, which is chaired by Tariq Samad (US).

ifac-control.org/activityfund/reports-of-recent-projects/ifac-latin-american-women-in-control-engineering-ifac-la-wice-meeting

The IFAC Council and Related Meetings 2025 are scheduled to take place from 16-19 July 2025 in Paris, FR!

The meetings are being held in conjunction with Mechatronics and Robotics Symposia. ifac2025-msrob.com/

Some accommodation information is available at: ifac2025-msrob.com/accommodation/

Information such as the schedule will be updated here: ifac-control.org/news

Reply form: cloud.ifac-control.org/apps/forms/s/SQswJajPjCSLNdbnzPck5TEo

IFAC Executive Officers Meeting 10- 12 April 2025 Vienna, AT

The IFAC Executive Officers met in-person from 10-12 April 2025 in Vienna, Austria. The only Executive Officer who could not travel to Vienna was Carlos Eduardo Pereira (BR, IFAC VP- Technical Activities) who attended online due to his son's wedding taking place in Brazil on one of the meeting days.

This annual meeting always takes place in Austria, the host country of the permanent IFAC Secretariat in Laxenburg (near Vienna) since 1978 upon invitation of the Austrian government. It is noted in the imprint of each issue of this *Newsletter* that IFAC receives an association support subsidy from the Austrian federal government through the BMIMI ministry. Some history of the relationship between Austria and IFAC can be found at: ifac-control.org/structure/the-ifac-secretariat.

As there was much to discuss the meetings began on Thursday morning, taking place at the Technical University- Vienna (TU Wien). Special thanks go to Prof. Andreas Kugi and the team at TU Wien for hosting the meetings at the university.

In the late afternoon the Executive Officers gathered with students and members of the Austrian control community for the annual technical lecture. This tradition provides the opportunity for the Austrian community to interact with world-renowned international experts involved in IFAC. The lecture this year "Descriptor System Modeling for Robustness in Control" was given by the EiC of this *Newsletter* Dr. Dimitri Peaucelle (FR, LAAS-Toulouse).



If you were not able to join the lecture audience in-person in Vienna or live via Zoom back in April you can catch it via the IFAC YouTube channel: youtube.com/watch?v=ck-DD3f0r5k.

Per tradition the annual IFAC President's Dinner took place on Thursday evening. IFAC was

especially honored to be joined by IFAC Advisor and president from 1999-2002 Prof. Pedro Albertos who travelled from Spain to be in attendance at the lecture and dinner. This year's dinner was held at the restaurant Settimo Cielo, featuring Mediterranean cuisine and views of the Vienna city center and St. Stephan's Cathedral in the first district.

The meetings picked up again bright and early on Friday (11 April) morning, lasting to early evening, and continued through midday Saturday.

As IFAC's activities have increased in the past several years there was much for the executive Officers to discuss in these three days of meetings. Some topics included preparation of the upcoming 2025 IFAC Council and Related meetings in Paris, FR, updates concerning upcoming IFAC World Congresses, congress and IFAC president bids for 2029-2032 (the second time these decisions will be made separately from each other), updates from the various boards, the state of IFAC's finances, the progress of the IFAC Election Committee, IFAC task forces, IT developments, and many others.



At the IFAC technical lecture at TU Wien on 10 April 2025. Pictured left to right: IFAC President-Elect 2026-29 Maria Prandini (IT), IFAC Immediate Past-President Hajime Asama (JP), IFAC VP Operations/Secretary Dimitri Peaucelle (FR), IFAC VP Finances Silvia Mastellone (CH), TU Wien Prof. Andreas Kugi (AT), IFAC Council Ordinary Member 2023-26 Christian Ott (AT), IFAC President Dong-Il "Dan" Cho (KR), Dr. Ingo Hegny (AT- BMIMI representative), IFAC VP Publications Sarah K. Spurgeon (UK), IFAC Advisor Pedro Albertos (ES), IFAC VP Conferences Richard Braatz (US).

Preparations for the 2026 IFAC Executive Officer's Meeting in Austria are already underway.

Written by: Elske Haberl, IFAC Secretariat

IFAC Affiliates portal

The portal gives access to IFAC services:

- Share with and consult information about other Affiliates
- Receive the IFAC Newsletter
- Receive alerts about the IFAC Conferences in your field/s of interest
- Get reduced registration fees at IFAC Conferences. Conferences are typically 10€ (or the local equivalent) less expensive for IFAC Affiliates, than for non-affiliates
- Participate in IFAC Technical Activities
- Organize IFAC Conferences
- Participate in IFAC Journals
- Be nominated to IFAC Awards
- Apply to the IFAC Activity fund
- More to come in the future!

Any individual interested in Control Engineering should sign up at affiliates.ifac-control.org/!

How do I connect?

- If you are not yet connected to IFAC and wish to join for free, select 'Sign-Up' and then 'Register for an IFAC Account'. Meanwhile you may also browse the Web public data.

- If you receive this Newsletter in your mailbox, this means you are already connected to IFAC and listed in our database. To create your access to the portal for the first time, please select 'Sign-Up' and then 'Register for an IFAC Account' as above. In order to link your access to your existing data and save some time, please complete the form with the exact email address at which you receive the Newsletter.

Detailed instructions are available at: ifac-control.org/about/affiliate-registration

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Signing in as IFAC Affiliate is mandatory to benefit from IFAC services and to participate in IFAC activities. Affiliates who do not connect to the portal within a year will have their data removed from the database. They will still have the possibility to become an affiliate again, but it may temporarily prevent access to services.

For any additional information, or if you require any assistance, please contact secretariat@ifac-control.org

IFAC Portal: affiliates.ifac-control.org/

IFAC Cartoon Archive is available!

ifac-control.org/publications/cartoons


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 **Federal Ministry
Innovation, Mobility
and Infrastructure
Republic of Austria**

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

Title	2025	Place	Further Information
2 nd IFAC Workshop on Control of Complex Systems COSY 2025	June/July 30 – 02	Gif-sur-Yvette France	sssc-tds-cosy-2025.sciencesconf.org/ sssc-tds-cosy-2025@sciencesconf.org
9 th IFAC Symposium on System Structure and Control SSSC 2025	June/July 30 – 02	Gif-sur-Yvette France	sssc-tds-cosy-2025.sciencesconf.org/ sssc-tds-cosy-2025@sciencesconf.org
19 th IFAC Workshop on Time Delay Systems TDS 2025	June/July 30 – 02	Gif-sur-Yvette France	sssc-tds-cosy-2025.sciencesconf.org/ sssc-tds-cosy-2025@sciencesconf.org
11 th IFAC Conference on Manufacturing Modelling, Management and Control MIM 2025	June/July 30 – 03	Trondheim Norway	conferences.ifac-control.org/mim2025/ mim2025@mtp.ntnu.no
9 th International Conference on Control, Automation and Diagnosis ICCAD 2025	July 01 – 03	Barcelona Spain	iccad-conf.com/ contact@iccad-conf.com
11 th IFAC Symposium on Robust Control Design ROCOND 2025	July 02 – 04	Porto Portugal	conferences.ifac-control.org/rocond2025/ rocond2025@ifac-mail.org
6 th IFAC Workshop on Linear Parameter Varying Systems LPVS 2025	July 02 – 04	Porto Portugal	conferences.ifac-control.org/lpvs2025/ lpvs2025@ifac-mail.org
15 th IFAC Workshop on Adaptive and Learning Control Systems ALCOS 2025	July 02 – 04	Mexico City Mexico	alcos2025.itam.mx alcos2025@itam.mx
AACC, IFAC, et al. Conference on American Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC) ACC 2025	July 08 – 11	Denver, CO USA	acc2025.a2c2.org/ paulson.82@osu.edu
14 th IFAC Symposium on Robotics ROBOTICS 2025	July 15 – 18	Paris France	ifac2025-msrob.com
10 th IFAC Symposium on Mechatronic Systems MECHATRONICS 2025	July 15 – 18	Paris France	ifac2025-msrob.com
11 th IEEE, IFAC et al International Conference on Control, Decision and Information Technologies CoDIT 2025	July 15 – 18	Split Croatia	codit2025.org/
13 th IFAC Symposium on Nonlinear Control Systems NOLCOS 2025	July 23 – 25	Reykjavik Iceland	conferences.ifac-control.org/nolcos2025/
23 rd IFAC Symposium on Automatic Control in Aerospace ACA 2025	August 02 – 06	Harbin China	
17 th IFAC Symposium on Large Scale Complex Systems: Theory and Applications LSS 2025	August 12 – 14	Dublin Ireland	
16 th IFAC Conference on Control Applications in Marine Systems, Robotics and Vehicles CAMS 2025	August 25 – 28	Wuhan China	conferences.ifac-control.org/cams2025/
8 th IFAC Conference on Sensing, Control and Automation Technologies for Agriculture AGRICONTROL 2025	August 27 – 29	Davis, CA USA	https://agricontrol25.sf.ucdavis.edu/ zdkong@ucdavis.edu
15 th IFAC Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing Systems IMS 2025	September 11 – 12	Koszalin Poland	ims2025.pl/
7 th IFAC Symposium on Telematics Applications TA 2025	September 15 – 18	Padova Italy	j3c.org/ info@j3c.org

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

1 st IFAC Workshop on Engineering and Architectures of Automation Systems EAAS 2025	September 15 – 18	Padova Italy	j3c.org/info@j3c.org
7 th IFAC Conference on Intelligent Control and Automation Sciences ICONS 2025	September 15 – 18	Padova Italy	j3c.org/info@j3c.org
5 th IFAC Workshop on Thermodynamics Foundations of Mathematical Systems Theory TFMST 2025	September 19 – 21	Hangzhou China	tfmst2025.net/#/gaochou@zju.edu.cn
66 th International Conference of Scandinavian Simulation Society SIMS 2025	September 23 – 24	Stavanger Norway	nfea.no/arrangementter/sims-2025/damiano.rotondo@uis.no
5 th AACC Conference on Modeling, Estimation and Control MECC 2025	October 5 – 8	Pittsburgh, PA USA	mecc2025.a2c2.org/
Optimization and Automation in Mining, Minerals and Metal Processing MMM 2025	October 5 – 8	Lima Peru	conferences.ifac-control.org/mmm2025/mmm2025@pucp.edu.pe
IFAC Workshop on Control Aspects of Multi-Satellite Systems CAMSAT 2025	October 5 – 8	Würzburg Germany	informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de/camsat/frankenberger@informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de
22 nd INSTICC et al International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics ICINCO 2025	October 20 – 22	Marbella Spain	icinco.scitevents.org/icinco.secretariat@insticc.org
16 th INSTICC et al. International Workshop on Enterprise Integration, Interoperability and Networking EI2N 2025	October 23 – 24	Marbella Spain	in4pl.scitevents.org/EI2N.aspx
6 th INSTICC et al International Conference on Innovative Intelligent Industrial Production and Logistics IN4PL 2025	October 23 – 24	Marbella Spain	in4pl.scitevents.org/in4pl.secretariat@insticc.org
3 rd IFAC Workshop on Control Methods for Water Resource Systems CMWRS 2025	November 6 – 7	Douai France	conferences.ifac-control.org/cmwr-simt-nord-europe/
1 st IFAC Workshop on Blockchain Intelligence and Knowledge Automation BIKa 2025	November 8 – 9	Macao China	2025.ifacbika.org/ifacbika@gmail.com
16 th IFAC Symposium on Analysis, Design and Evaluation of Human -Machine Systems HMS 2025	November 18 – 21	Beijing China	conferences.ifac-control.org/hms2025/yinzhong@usst.edu.cn
19 th IFAC Workshop on Control Applications of Optimisation CAO 2025	December 10 – 13	Krakow Poland	
13 th IFAC Conference on Fractional Differentiation and its Applications ICFDA 2025	December 18 – 21	Algiers Algeria	
Title	2026	Place	Further Information
AACC, IFAC, et al. Conference on American Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	May 25 – 29	New Orleans, LA USA	acc2026.a2c2.org/
EUCA/IFAC Conference on European Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	July 7 – 10	Reykjavik Iceland	https://ecc26.euca-ecc.org/ecc26@euca-ecc.org
23 rd IFAC World Congress WC 2026	August 23– 28	Busan Republic of Korea	ifac2026.org/ifac2026@ifac2026.org