

In this issue of *IEEE Control Systems Magazine*, we report on conferences and workshops that were recently held around the world. Besides continuing to report on the American Control Conference (ACC) and a workshop in honor of the 60th birthday of a prominent member of our research community, we report on three conference series for the first time: the 24th Chinese Control Conference (CCC), the 5th International Conference on Control and Automation (ICCA), and the SICE Annual Conference 2005.

I'm especially happy to have received these reports since I have personal connections with some of these conferences and I attended several of them. The inaugural CCC was held on the campus of Xiamen University in 1979, when I was a freshman there majoring in control theory. That was the first time I was near so many prominent Chinese control theorists. This summer, 26 years later, I attended the CCC for the first time, and I presented a preconference workshop there. In his conference report, Prof. Daizhan Cheng, on behalf of the Chinese control community, sincerely extends his invitation to colleagues around the world to participate in future CCCs.

The ICCA is organized by several colleagues and friends in Singapore. General Chair Ben M. Chen of this year's ICCA was my college classmate. I am very happy to see that, in a matter of a few years, this conference has become an important international event. The SICE annual conference is organized by the Japanese Society of Instrumentation and Control Engineers (SICE), technically cosponsored by the IEEE Control System Society (CSS), and held in cooperation with several other Asian technical societies. I am truly impressed with the organization of this large conference, in particular, with the effort paid to encourage and facilitate the participation of colleagues from outside Japan.

I hope these conference reports will help you learn about control activities that are taking place around the world. I also look forward to receiving your reports as well as announcements of upcoming events. You can contact me at

Zongli Lin
Charles L. Brown Department of Electrical
and Computer Engineering
University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400743
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4743 USA
zl5y@virginia.edu

Chinese Control Conference



Over 400 people attended the opening ceremony of the 24th CCC in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. On stage (from left) are Yueming Hu (chair of the organizing committee), Jie Huang (chair of the program committee), Sheng Zou (deputy director of the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Information Products), Han-Fu Chen (general chair of CCC, member of CAS), Yuanyuan Li (president of South China University of Technology), Lei Guo (president of AMSS, member of CAS), Yong Chen (president of the Guangdong Division of the CAS), Hongxin Wu (member of CAS), Daizhan Cheng (chair of TCCT, CAA, program chair of the 24th CCC), and Bugong Xu (dean of the College of Automation Science and Engineering, South China University of Technology).

The 24th Chinese Control Conference (CCC) was held in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, on 16 July 2005, with more than 400 attendees. The CCC is an annual conference on systems and control theory and its applications. The Technical Committee on Control Theory (TCCT) of the Chinese Association of Automation (CAA) is responsible for organizing the CCC.

Historical Overview

The first CCC, known as the National Conference on Control Theory and Its Applications, was held in the southeast resort city of Xiamen, Fujian Province, in 1979. Since its inception, the CCC has been held 24 times in various cities throughout China, drawing participants from universities, research institutions, and industry. The CCC adopted its current name in 1994.



The TCCT meeting at the 24th CCC. First row (from left): Weihua Gui, Fengsheng Tu, Xiren Cao, Dazhong Zheng, Lei Guo, Han-Fu Chen, Hongxin Wu, Huashu Qin, Daizhan Cheng, and Yi Huang. Second row (from left): Shaoyuan Li, Min Wu, Quan Pan, Xiaoping Fan, Shumin Fei, Yuqiang Wu, Jifeng Zhang, Li Yu, Gang Feng, Zhongsheng Hou, Xiaohong Guan, Jie Huang, Dewen Hu, Duangren Duan, Tong Zhou, Yisheng Zhong, Zhiyong Geng, Zhongping Jiang, Jun Zhao, Shuang Cong, and Wensheng Yu.



Attendees of the 24th CCC tour the city of Zhuhai, Guangdong Province. Zhuhai is one of four cities chosen by the Chinese central government as special economic zones in the early 1980s. Shown are (from left) Hassan Khalil, Daizhan Cheng, and Clyde Martin.

As a professional organization, TCCT is affiliated with the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science (AMSS), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). TCCT membership is nominated by Chinese universities and research organizations every five years. The eighth TCCT was appointed in 2003. In an effort to encourage and facilitate the exchange of research results among researchers both at home and abroad, the TCCT has established the CCC as an international conference. To this end, the TCCT has set up an International Exchange Committee and has adopted Chinese and English as the working languages of the CCC.

Sponsorship

The TCCT is the permanent sponsor of the CCC. Each year, there is a local cosponsor, generally a university. The duties of the cosponsor include arrangements, the paper submission process, and publication of the conference proceedings. The TCCT is responsible for selecting the conference venue, choosing plenary speakers, reviewing papers, and making award evaluations. Potential cosponsors of the CCC submit proposals to TCCT two years prior to the conference. The South China University of Technology was selected as the cosponsor of the recent CCC in Guangzhou. The local cosponsors for the 2006 and 2007 CCCs have already been determined to be the Harbin Institute of Technology and Central South University, respectively.

In addition to the TCCT and the local cosponsor, the CCC is technically cosponsored by the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS), the Society of Instrument and Control Engineers (SICE), Japan, and the Institute of Control, Automation, and Systems Engineers (ICASE), Korea.

Technical Program

The CCC technical program consists of plenary sessions and parallel oral sessions. Due to the increased number of submissions, poster sessions were introduced at the 23rd CCC in 2004. There were 549 submissions to the 24th CCC, including papers from the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Sweden, Poland, and Hong Kong. Over 10% of the participants were from outside the Chinese mainland. Five prominent researchers were invited to deliver plenary speeches. There were 49 parallel lecture sessions comprising 275 papers as well as two poster sessions detailing 125 papers.

The CCC also organized technical and sightseeing tours. This year, participants enjoyed a cruise around Macau Island, Zhuhai city, and Zhongshan city.



Mark Spong presents a plenary talk titled "The Passivity Paradigm in Robot Control."

Plenary Speeches

At the 24th CCC, Hassan K. Khalil of Michigan State University, Clyde F. Martin of Texas Tech University, Jing Sun of the University of Michigan, Jie Wu of South China University of Technology, and Kemin Zhou of Louisiana State University were the plenary speakers. Their talks were titled, respectively, "Conditional Integral Action in Nonlinear Control," "Splines and Control Theory: Past, Present and Future," "Integrated Power Plants for Advanced Transportation Systems: Challenges and Opportunities for Controls," "Control of Renewable Energy Source and Power Electronics," and "High Performance Robust and Fault Tolerant Control."

Awards

The Guan Zhao-Zhi (Kwan Chao-Chih) Award was founded by the TCCT in memory of the late Guan Zhao-Zhi for his immeasurable contributions to the initiation and development of modern control theory and its applications in China, as well as for his support, care, and encouragement of young scientists in the field of control theory. The Foundation Committee and the Evaluation Committee of the Guan Zhao-Zhi Award were founded to handle the fundraising activities and the award selection process. The fact that the recipients of the Guan Zhao-Zhi Award continue to make significant contributions in their field of study has helped build the reputation of the award.

In addition, TCCT also encourages control-related enterprises to set up awards for presentation at the CCC. To ensure the quality of the awards, the establishment of the awards is carried out directly by the TCCT.

Preconference Workshops

For the first time, four preconference tutorial workshops were arranged at the 24th CCC. Ben Chen and Kema Peng of the National University of Singapore, Daizhan Cheng of the Institute of Systems Science, CAS, Zongli Lin of the University of Virginia, and Tielong Shen of Sophia University were invited as lecturers for the tutorial workshops. The workshops were titled, respectively, "Composite Nonlinear Feedback Control Technique and Its Applications," "Switched Control Systems," "Control Systems with Actuator Saturation," and "Advanced Nonlinear Robust Control for Mechanical and



Guangming Xie and Ying Yang receive the Guan Zhao-Zhi Nomination Awards at the 24th CCC. Han-Fu Chen and Hongxin Wu, members of the CAS, present the awards.



Zongli Lin, IEEE CSM corresponding editor for conference activities, presents a preconference workshop on the analysis and design of control systems with actuator saturation at the 24th CCC.

Electrical Systems: Fundamental Theory and Applications." These workshops were warmly received and well attended.

Invitation to Participate

As a quickly developing country, China recognizes the essential role that automation plays in its industrialization and modernization. More than 100,000 researchers work in the field of systems and control, and 100 universities in China have departments of automation, making the subject one of the most popular majors.

The TCCT and the CCC, representing the Chinese systems and control research community, are eager to meet and collaborate with our colleagues abroad. For information about our conferences, please visit our Web page (<http://ccc.amss.ac.cn>, <http://tcct.amss.ac.cn>) or contact Daizhan Cheng at dcheng@iss.ac.cn.

—Daizhan Cheng
Chair, Technical Committee on Control Theory
Chinese Association of Automation