

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2013 IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (ICME 2013). ICME is sponsored by four IEEE societies: Signal Processing, Circuits and Systems, Computer and Communications. It is the premier forum for the presentation of the latest advances in multimedia technologies, systems, and applications from both the research and development perspectives. ICME 2013 is the fourteenth in the series that has been held annually since 2000, after New York, Tokyo, Lausanne, Baltimore, Taipei, Amsterdam, Toronto, Beijing, Hannover, New York City, Singapore, Barcelona and Melbourne. We are glad that from July 15th to 19th, 2013, San Jose will be the home of the latest research in multimedia technologies.

With many innovations, ICME 2013 is record-breaking in ICME history from many aspects:

- The largest number of (1250+) paper submission combining all categories;
- A tutorial program that is open to all conference attendees without additional charges;
- Industrial tours to Intel, HP and CISCO; and,
- Exhibition and demos, which are open to the public.

We would like to acknowledge Drs. Irene Cheng (University of Alberta) and Xian-Sheng Hua (Microsoft), the TPC Chairs, and the TPC team under their leadership, for their outstanding efforts to make ICME'13 the largest program ever in ICME history, while maintaining superior quality. We also thank the following for all their hard work: the workshop chairs, Drs. Li, Sapino and Shih; the theme chairs, Drs. El-Saddik, Wang and Xu; the society chairs Drs. Tseng, Lin, Kankanhalli and Hanjalic; the short papers chairs Drs. Zhai, Kwasinski and Wu; the publicity chairs Drs. Atrey, Lavoué, Li, Sunwoo and Zhang; the sponsorship chairs Drs. Zhu, Oguz and Madhvanath; the finance chairs Drs. Zhao and Xu; the tutorials chairs Drs. Smolic, Shirmohammadi and Ogunfunmi; the demo chairs Drs. Dufaux and Tagliasacchi; and the expo chairs Drs. Zhu, Xiong and Li.

ICME 2013 will be held at Fairmont, San Jose, the premier hotel in the area. There are numerous local attractions that attendees can enjoy, including:

- **The Tech Museum of Innovation**, or simply **The Tech**, is a museum located in the heart of Silicon Valley, in downtown San Jose.
- **Intel Museum**, Santa Clara: At the Intel Museum in Santa Clara, you can experience the power of computer chips first hand, and the evolution of their development.
- **Computer History Museum**, Mountain View: The Computer History Museum is the world's leading institution exploring the history of computing and its ongoing impact on society.
- The **Lick Observatory** is an astronomical observatory, owned and operated by the University of California. It is situated on the summit of Mount Hamilton, in the Diablo Range just east of San Jose.
- **Paramount's Great America Amusement Park** Santa Clara: The best amusement park in Northern California packs a wide variety of attractions into its 100-acre site.
- **Chinatown** San Francisco: The largest Chinatown outside Asia with hundreds of historical and tourist attractions.
- **Fisherman's Wharf** San Francisco: Pier 39 is an open-air festival marketplace located on San Francisco Bay with two levels of fun-filled attractions, unique shopping at 110 specialty shops and delightful dining at one of 14 full-service restaurants.

- **Monterey Bay Aquarium:** Take a drive down the Pacific Coast to enjoy the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. It brings visitors up close with the rich marine life found along California's coast.
- **Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose (CDM)** is located on Woz Way in downtown San Jose, California.
- **History Park at Kelley Park** (or just **History Park**) is designed as an indoor/outdoor museum, arranged to appear as a small US town might have in the early 1900s.
- The **Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph** is a large Roman Catholic Church located in Downtown of San Jose.
- **Plaza de César Chávez** is a 2.2-acre (9,000 m<sup>2</sup>) park in Downtown San Jose named after César Chávez (originally "The Plaza", then "Pueblo Plaza") in 1993.
- The **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library** is a 136 foot tall public library in Downtown San Jose that opened on August 1, 2003.
- The **Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum** (REM), founded by the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis, is a museum about Ancient Egypt located at AMORC's Rosicrucian Park in the Rose Garden neighborhood of San Jose.
- The **Mexican Heritage Plaza** is a museum and cultural center in San José that opened in 1999.
- The **Winchester Mystery House** is a well-known mansion which is located in California. It was continuously under construction for 38 years and is reported to be haunted.
- **Raging Waters** is the name of a water theme park located in San Jose. It is the largest water parks in the state of California.
- The **Circle of Palms Plaza** is located in downtown San Jose. It is the location of California Historical Marker 461, the site of California's first state capital from 1849-1851.

In addition to the above, there are many museums and art galleries nearby. Hundreds of reasonably priced restaurants, with food from almost all regions of the world, are within a short walking distance from the conference venue.

The organizing committee has put together a very attractive social program. The welcome reception will be held in the Circle of Palms, accompanied by high quality guitar and xylophone performance. The Banquet will take place in Fairmont with a Brazilian Jazz performance. We are also planning a closing reception and student awards ceremony. We would like to especially thank Drs. Lingzhi Liu (Intel), Yi Fang (SCU), Birsan Sirkeci (San Jose State University), Rui Shen (Univ. Alberta), Tom Malzbender (HP) and Cha Zhang (Microsoft), Xenophon Zabulis (FORTH, Greece), as well as Lisa Schwarzbek and Nicole Allen (IEEE), and all the organizing committee members and administration staff for making this event successful.

Finally, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the ICME Steering Committee, especially Dr. Chang-Wen Chen (Univ. Buffalo), the Chair, for their constant supports and invaluable guidance and advice all the time. Thanks for all the volunteers, reviewers and many people that put extraordinary efforts in this event; we are sure ICME 2013 will be a remarkable experience.

**Anup Basu, University of Alberta, Canada**

**Nam Ling, Santa Clara University, USA**

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