

Message from the ISCA President

On behalf of the International Speech Communication Association (ISCA), I would like to welcome you to the beautiful city of Lisbon and to INTERSPEECH 2005 — Eurospeech, the 9th European Conference on Speech Communication and Technology.

As you are well aware, the Eurospeech series of conferences has established itself as one of the major international conferences on speech communication science and technology. From the first gathering in Paris in 1989, each subsequent conference – Genova '91, Berlin '93, Madrid '95, Rhodes '97, Budapest '99, Aalborg '01 and Geneva '03 – has maintained its unique style while adding new ideas to the overall format. This year, 1,379 papers were submitted, and approximately 62% of the regular papers have been selected for presentation after the peer review process. In addition, many special sessions have been organized based on proposals by voluntary groups.

ISCA was founded 17 years ago as the European Speech Communication Association (ESCA). ESCA has evolved from a small EEC-supported European organization to a fully independent and self-supporting international association. In 1999, ESCA changed its name to International Speech Communication Association (ISCA) and modified its statutes accordingly. The main goal of the Association is “to promote Speech Communication Science and Technology, both in the industrial and academic areas”, covering all aspects of Speech Communication (acoustics, phonetics, phonology, linguistics, natural language processing, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, signal processing, pattern recognition, etc.).

In 2002, the ISCA Board and the Permanent Council of International Conferences on Spoken Language Processing (PC-ICSLP) agreed to merge Eurospeech and ICSLP under the name “INTER_SPEECH events”. Last year, PC-ICSLP amended its constitution and decided to join the ISCA Advisory Council to oversee the organization of the INTER_SPEECH series of conferences. We can expect many benefits from the two organizations coming together. Now the ICSLP and Eurospeech conferences are held as INTER_SPEECH conferences under the umbrella of ISCA, and various software tools for organizing the conferences are being continuously revised for later conferences. Our previous experiences with running the conferences are pooled and passed along to future conferences. Future conferences will be held in Pittsburg in USA (2006), Antwerp in the Netherlands (2007), and Brisbane in Australia (2008). So far we have kept to the principle of holding odd-year conferences (INTER_SPEECH-EURO_SPEECH) in Europe and even-year conferences (INTER_SPEECH-ICSLP) in Asia, Oceania or America. However, at the ISCA Board meeting held in May 2005 in Lisbon, we decided to abolish this principle and to open future INTER_SPEECH bids to all the regions, although we will still endeavor to maintain an overall balance. If you have any imaginative ideas that you feel could shape future conferences, please let us know.

At the ISCA Board meeting in May, we also made a number of important decisions, including: (a) To reduce the Board from 13 to 11 members for three years and then to reevaluate and reduce the cost of the meetings. (b) Develop “committees” (Chairs and committee members) to work on specific functions, with each committee reporting to one Board member. (c) In order to complete the archive, to invite Prof. Wolfgang Hess to continue working as the ISCA Archive editor after stepping down from the Board in September this year. (d) Award 250 EUR to the best student paper each year, instead of giving a free one-year subscription to the Journal of Speech Communication.

Finally, returning to INTER_SPEECH 2005 – Lisbon, on your behalf I would like to offer a formal vote of thanks to the Portuguese team responsible for seeing this project through to completion. As you can imagine, planning and organizing a major international event such as this is no small undertaking. Many people have dedicated huge quantities of their personal time and effort towards creating the event we are now enjoying. We should offer a huge thank you to the INTER_SPEECH – 2005 General Chairperson Isabel Trancoso and her wonderful team of local organizers for their tireless efforts in creating another significant milestone in the annals of international speech science and technology. Also, we should extend our thanks to all those members of the international community who contributed to the review process, to the organizers of the special sessions, and to the people who have mounted satellite workshops in support of the main conference. And last, but by no means least, I would like to thank all of you for supporting and attending this conference.

I wish you all a successful conference, an enjoyable time in Lisbon and a memorable visit to this lovely part of Portugal. I look forward to seeing you again at the next ISCA event.



Prof. Dr. Sadaoki Furui
ISCA President

A Welcome Message from the General Chair

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to INTERSPEECH 2005. Hosting this conference in Lisbon has been my own dream since the first EUROSPEECH conference, back in 1989. Now, sixteen years after, I finally fulfil the dream of sharing my city with the many friends I've made during this long series of conferences.

INTER SPEECH 2005-EUROSPEECH is the 9th biennial conference of the International Speech Communication Association (ISCA) and the 6th in the annual series of INTERSPEECH events, after Beijing, Aalborg, Denver, Geneva and Jeju.

This year's theme is "Ubiquitous Speech Processing", a long-term goal for this new millennium, which is also the topic of the panel of our 4th and last plenary session. The conference follows the typical format of INTERSPEECH events, with parallel oral and poster sessions, and a first Tutorial Day program featuring six in-depth tutorials from world-class experts in their field.

This conference would not have been possible without the hard work of the members of the Technical Program Committee — selecting 774 papers out of 1261 regular submissions was not an easy task at all. For that, we also need to thank all the reviewers who provided us with such valuable feedback on this record number of submissions. We hope to be able to thank you all personally at the Scientific Review Committee reception, hosted on Tuesday evening at the Castle by the City Council of Lisbon.

This year's conference also achieved a record number of proposals for special sessions (27). This enthusiastic response resulted in over a hundred extra submissions which have been reviewed and organized into 10 special sessions and 2 panels. Altogether, the conference will include 867 papers.

The truly interdisciplinary nature of INTERSPEECH events is demonstrated by the wide range of topics covered in regular and special sessions, gathering a community of speech scientists, engineers, phoneticians, computational linguists, academics and industrials working on spoken language processing and related fields. Altogether we received submissions from 2821 different authors, originating from 62 different countries, making these conferences the major international spoken language processing events. This growing community also makes us anticipate the next editions in Pittsburgh, Antwerp and Brisbane.

The Science Quiz is one of the novelties of INTERSPEECH 2005. So we urge you to attend the closing session where the winner will be announced. After staying in Lisbon for several days, we hope you will have learnt a few words of Portuguese to be able to join us in singing a couple of verses of *Fado*, Lisbon's song, at the end of the closing ceremony.

Perched on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean and with a personality split between Western Europe and Northern Africa, Lisbon is a European city like no other. Portugal's capital boasts a historical heritage that is very much evident in the *Belém* quarters, where the Convention Center is located. The Welcome Reception on Monday will take place at the cloisters of the *Mosteiro dos Jerónimos*, one of Lisbon's jewels, thus providing an appetizer for the many wonderful sights you can find in this city.

The Organizing Committee has made every effort to make this conference a truly memorable and enjoyable event. For that, we counted with the hard work of Casa Branca, our very efficient conference organizer, and a wonderful team of local students.



Finally, allow me to thank our sponsors. Their support has made it possible for us to be able to organize the kind of event we wanted to share with you all. We particularly would like to thank His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic, Jorge Sampaio, for the high Patronage of this event, and for all his efforts to promote the Portuguese Language.

Isabel Trancoso
Chair of INTERSPEECH 2005

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6th SIGdial Workshop on Discourse and Dialogue

Laila Dybkjær, Wolfgang Minker

Lisbon, Portugal, 2-3 September 2005

<http://www.sigdial.org/workshops/workshop6/>

Biennial on DSP for in-Vehicle and Mobile Systems

Fumitada Itakura, Hüseyin Abut, Kazuya Takeda

Sesimbra, Portugal, 3 September, 2005

<http://dspincars.sdsu.edu/>

Young Researchers' Roundtable on Spoken Dialog Systems

Satanjeev Banerjee, Dan Bohus, Ellen Campana, Stephen Choularton, Antoine Raux, Stefanie Tomko, Jason Williams

Lisbon, Portugal, 1 September 2005

<http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/~dod/roundtable/>