ISCA Distinguished Lecturer Report

Submitted by Professor Helen Meng, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, DL (September 2016)

1. Visit to Macau

My visit to Macau was hosted by University of Macau's Vice Rector (Academic Affairs), Professor Lionel Ni. The DL visit was very well publicized ahead of time with a nicely designed poster and an online registration mechanism (see Photo 1).

Photo 1. Poster for Distinguished Lecture visit (well publicized ahead of time with online registration).

My visit started with a tour of the new campus. The University of Macau is undergoing rapid and exciting development and they have moved to a beautiful new campus with abundant space for future development. There are wonderful facilities enjoyed by both their staff and students (see Photo 2).

Photo 2: Tour of the new campus of University of Macau. With me is Ms. Vania Chang of the Office of the Vice-Rector (Academic Affairs)

I visited the Faculty of Science and Technology, and had a good discussion with Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Professor Kam Weng Tam. He is an expert in wireless technologies and heads the Wireless Technology Laboratory. I also toured his laboratory, and saw an intelligent kiosk that is developed by his research team and has been deployed to support library logistics (see Photo 3). The kiosk is a potential platform that can be enhanced with a speech interface.

Photo 3. With Professor Kam Weng Tam, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies of the Faculty of Science & Technology (right) and his research staff member. The intelligent kiosk is developed in his laboratory (the Wireless Technology Laboratory) to support library logistics. It is a potential platform that can be enhanced with a speech interface.

I also visited the Natural Language Processing & Portuguese-Chinese Machine Translation Laboratory (NLP^{2}CT) (see Photo 4), which is directed by Professor Derek Wong and Professor Lidia Chao. NLP and MT are core areas that are making rapid progress at University of Macao. I saw a demonstration of their system performing parsing and machine translation. I also saw the posters displaying their research work with former ISCA President Professor Isabel Trancoso, who visited Macau in 2012 and conducted joint work with the research team (see Photo 5).

Photo 4. Visit to the Natural Language Processing & Portuguese-Chinese Machine Translation Laboratory, which is directed by Professor Derek Wong (right), with Associate Dean Professor Kam Weng Tam (left).

Photo 5. Posters on display in NLP^{2}CT, which included collaborative work between Professors Derek Wong, Lidea Chao and former ISCA President Professor Isabel Transcoso.

I also visited with Dean Hong Gang Jin at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, who is also Chair Professor of Applied Linguistics. My discussions with Vice-Rector Professor Lionel Ni and Dean Jin allowed me to learn about their vision in promoting eLearning and language enhancements. This also opens up many potential collaborations as the topic is well matched with my research interests. My distinguished lecture was very well attended at the large auditorium. Aside from engineers and linguistics, there were also many language instructors. The audience asked plenty of very good questions. I thoroughly enjoyed the interaction and was inspired by some of the questions (see Photo 6).

Photo 6. Picture after giving the distinguished lecture. From left to right – Professor Derek Wong, Dean Hong Gang Jin, myself and Professor Lidia Chao.

Upcoming Visits:

2. Bangkok, Thailand. Hosted by Professor Kosin Chamnongthai, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, (week of November 28)

3. Vietnam. Hosted by Dr Luong Chi Mai, Institute of Information Tehnology, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (week of December 5 est.)