

5th IFAC SYMPOSIUM on ADVANCES IN CONTROL EDUCATION, ACE 2000

Sea World Nara Resort, Gold Coast, Australia, December 17-19, 2000

The 5th Symposium on Advances in Control Education was hosted by the Institution of Engineers of Australia, IEAust, the national member organization of IFAC and was sponsored by the IFAC Technical Committee on Control Education (EDCOM). ACE 2000 has also received technical co-sponsorship from the IEEE Control Systems Society, the IFAC TC on Automation in Developing Countries and the IEAust National Committee on Automation, Control and Instrumentation. It was prepared and organized by the Australian National Organizing Committee chaired by G. Weiss and the International Program Committee co-chaired by L. Vlacic and M. Brisk. The goal of this symposium as for the four preceding meetings was to provide an international forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on alternative methods, approaches and recent developments and for the dissemination of knowledge related to the teaching of automatic control.

The symposium was organized in 3 plenary sessions, one semi-plenary session and 2 parallel tracks of 16 technical sessions. From the 82 papers originally submitted, 65 (103 authors from 31 countries and from all 5 continents) were accepted and published in the preprints. There were 5 last minute cancellations and thus only 60 papers were presented by 58 speakers.

Each day began with one of the plenary lectures: 'New Directions in Control Engineering Education. A North American Perspective' (P. Antaklis, Notre Dame University, USA), 'Control Engineering Education: A View from Industrial and Academic Perspective' (S. Crisafulli, CICS Automation, Australia) and 'A Perspective of Distance Learning Tool Based Control Education System' (F. Harashima, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan). The semi-plenary lecture 'Control Education in Australia Past and Present' was devoted to the history of automatic control education in Australia. The 16 technical sessions were dedicated to the following topics: 'Control Education Curricula', 'Laboratory Tools and Experiments', 'Real Time Control', 'Control Topics: Educational Perspective' and 'Internet Based Control'. At Tokyo (1997) the competition for the best video on a laboratory experiment had been added to the symposium. Unfortunately, the selection committee was not able to award the prize this year.

At the closing ceremony the beautiful ACE-banner, dedicated to the symposium by the Japanese organizers at the Tokyo meeting, was passed on to L. Yliniemi, representing the Finnish NMO that will host the ACE 2003 symposium.

Last but not least, it should be mentioned that the symposium was flawlessly organized and that the venue was well chosen at one of the most beautiful beaches in Australia. Heartfelt thanks go to Ljubo Vlacic and Mike Brisk and to all who helped them.

January 21, 2001 - H.P.Jörgl, EDCOM Chair

