

EPAC 2000

The EPAC 2000 meeting has taken place at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of Ss Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje, Republic of Macedonia (RM). The scope of EPAC 2000 has been the same as for all previous meetings: To enable a get-together of both the most experienced and the younger colleagues among European Professors of Automatic Control in order to implement direct exchange of educational experience and knowledge as well as to discuss and explore novel ideas and methodologies for instructing and training future engineers in the fields of Automation, Control and Systems Engineering.

Proposals for some special purpose or dedicated theme sessions on education and training in IFAC fields of interests, e.g. on virtual laboratory and virtual university, were also welcomed. Nevertheless, the emphasis of EPAC 2000 was on education and training in IFAC fields for the 21st century needs of society, hence the addition of the IFAC dimension of social responsibility as well.

One of the suggestions for the future of EPAC events is that proceedings should always be produced as younger colleagues in particular want not only to present their ideas and achievements but also to have them documented and recognised by our community. Hence, the EPAC 2000 Proceedings have been edited and printed, and made available at the meeting.

The evening of September 17 was dedicated to delegates who had arrived from abroad and the traditional EPAC Welcome Drink party took place at the premises of the Institute of Automation and Systems Engineering (ASE) at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering (EE). Next day, the Opening Ceremony started with the welcome address of Professor T. Dzhekov, Vice-Minister for Science of the RM Ministry of Education and Science, which was followed by words of welcome presented by Professor V. Glamocanin, Dean of EE. Perhaps, it was the first EPAC event at which a colleague from Tel Aviv, Professor A. Moshaiov, participated and his rather valuable contribution brought new ideas and proposals. For this reason, his contribution was dedicated to be the Invited Closing Lecture complementing the Invited Opening Lecture delivered by Academician M. Vukobratovic from Belgrade. During the evening on the first day the special EPAC Dinner was "celebrated".

The afternoon session on the second day was devoted to presentations and laboratory demonstrations by lecturers associated with and students currently working at the Laboratory of ASE Institute. The very last session took place in the evening of the second day in a rather informal way, upon the arrival of Professors A. Vasilakos, from Heraklion, and E. Tulunay, from Ankara, and also involved a visit to the Faculty of EE and a joint dinner.

EPAC 2000 comprised the two mentioned plenaries and 7 contributed paper sessions. There were 25 papers elaborated on by 39 authors from 16 countries and 23 of the papers appear in the Proceedings. The countries of contributing authors are: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Macedonia (9 authors), Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

It should be noted that the spirit of IFAC friendship and EPAC co-operation was felt at all times, even when opposite opinions were debated, and I am certain this spirit will be conveyed to future generations by our younger colleagues.

The assembly unanimously voted for Prof. K. Schlacher, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, to serve as our next chairman. Thus, the EPAC2001 meeting will be held in Linz, Austria, in September 2001.

Respectfully submitted by Georgi Marko Dimirovski,

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