

Report on IEICE Information and Communication Technology Forum (ICTF 2016)

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1. Introduction

Particularly successful was the IEICE ICTF 2016 event that took place in Patras, Greece, in July 6-8, 2016, as we have received very positive feedbacks from the participants (about 80). The conference was hosted by the University of Patras (ECE Department) at its Conference Centre. As in the past, the aim of ICTF 2016 was to serve as a proper forum for the exchange of ideas among researchers from all over the world but mainly from Europe and Japan, both from academia and industry, on advances in the broad area of Information & Communication Technology.

The conference was sponsored by (Fig. 1): IEICE, IEICE Communications Society (IEICE-CS), IEICE Electronics Society (IEICE-ES), IEICE Europe Section, Polish Association of Telecommunication Engineers (PATE), University of Patras, and DIALOG SEMICONDUCTOR S.A.



Organised by Telecommunications & Information Technology Division, ECE Department, University of Patras.

Fig. 1 Poster of IEICE ICTF 2016

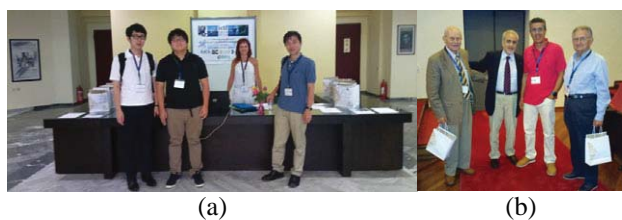


Fig. 2 (a) Students Mr. R. Morita and Mr. R. Sawada with their Prof. M. Aida, first arrivals at the registration desk (ICTF 2016 Secretary Mrs R. Doufexi). (b) Prof. Emeritus C. Georgopoulos, Prof. S. Koubias, Prof. G. Karagiannidis and Prof. Emeritus G. Kokkinakis

2. The Conference Program

The conference began (chaired by Prof. Michael Logothetis, *General Chair*, Dr Ioannis Moscholios, *TPC chair*, Prof. Mariusz Glabowski and Prof. Piotr Zwierzykowski, *TPC Co-chairs*) with welcoming addresses by representatives of the University of Patras (Prof. Nikos Fakotakis on behalf of the *Organizing Committee* and Prof. Stavros Koubias (Fig. 2(b)), *Head of ECE Department*, former *Rector* of the University of Patras), as well as by representatives of IEICE Europe Section (Prof. Mariusz Glabowski), PATE (Prof. Piotr Zwierzykowski), and DIALOG SEMICONDUCTOR (Dr Marios Iliopoulos). Also, representative of FITCE, the Federation of Telecommunications Engineers of the European Union (Mr. Panagiotis Exarchos), greeted the ICTF delegates. The Dean of Engineering School of University of Patras, Prof. Odysseas Koufopavlou, declared the official start of ICTF 2016.

The Technical Program included keynote, industrial, invited and ordinary conference presentations; totally, 46 presentations. They were accommodated to two days, while there was no need for parallel sessions.

Keynote speakers of the first day:

- Prof. Kenichi Mase (*Professor Emeritus, Niigata University, Japan*), "Wide-Area Deployable Ad Hoc Networks".
- Prof. George Karagiannidis (*Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*), "Robotics Facilitates Communications: Laser-Powered Drones with QoS Awareness".
- Prof. Shigeo Shioda (*Chiba University, Japan*), "Localizing Sensors from their Responses to Targets".

Keynote speakers of the second day:

- Prof. Fumiyuki Adachi (*Specially Appointed Professor, Tohoku University, Japan*), "Effective exploitation of spatial domain for 5G small-cell structured mobile networks".
- Prof. Maciej Stasiak (*Poznań University of Technology, Poland*), "Application of non full-availability models in the analysis of multi-service network systems".
- Prof. Masaki Aida (*Tokyo Metropolitan*

University, Japan), "Oscillation Model for Describing Propagation of Activities on Network Caused by Asymmetric Node Interactions".

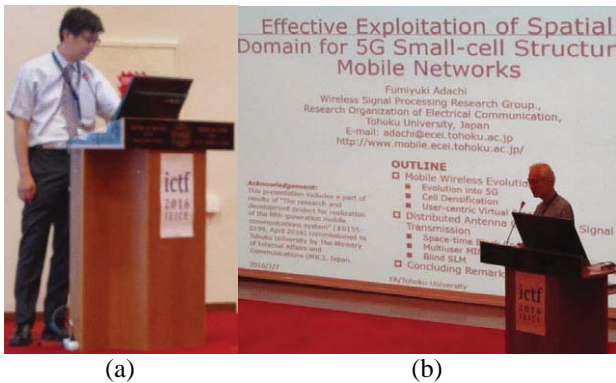


Fig. 3 (a) Prof. S. Shioda and (b) Prof. F. Adachi

Invited talks - In line to what ICTF has established, three out of five invited talks came from the industry:

- Invited Talk 1, from industry by *Dr Anna Wielgoszewska, NOKIA Bell Labs*, "Big Role of Small Cells in 5G Enterprise".
- Invited Talk 2, on Teletraffic by *Prof. Mariusz Glabowski, Poznan University of Technology, Poland*, "Analytical Modelling of Overflow Systems with Elastic Traffic".
- Invited Talk 3, from Industry by *Dr George Agapiou, Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE S.A.), Greece*, "SDN and NFV for satellite infrastructures".
- Invited Talk 4, from Industry by *Dr Ioannis Papapanagiotou, Netflix, USA*, "Internet of Things (IoT): Micro-location and Smart Buildings".
- Invited Talk 5, on Power Line Communication, by *Dr Khaled Rabie, Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K.*, "On the Energy Efficiency Performance of Power Line Communication Systems".

Ordinary 35 conference papers were included in the technical program, after having reviewed by two reviewers and in some cases by three reviewers to ensure high quality and standards. The reviewers' comments were mostly positive or very positive, and only in a few cases the comments were "accept if room". On the other hand, some comments were short, while some others were very long. In any case, we hope that we have helped all authors to improve their current papers and extend their research for the future. The 35 ordinary papers created by 100 ICTF authors were accommodated to the following sessions.

Table 1 Technical Sessions of ICTF 2016

Sessions of the 1st day:	Sessions of the 2nd day:
• Wireless Networks	• Teletraffic
• Security	• Network Planning
• Signal Processing	• Algorithms and Systems
• Embedded Systems	• Communications and Information Processing for the Smart Grid
• Optical and Wireless Transmission	

The last session (on Smart Grid) had been predefined as a Special Session thanks to some EU projects. Another predefined special session on "5G Security" was modified to "Security", because most of the submitted papers were not focused on 5G.

The first day ended with the welcome party (at the foyer of Patras Conference Centre, next to the auditorium, Fig. 5), while the second day ended with banquet (Greek buffet) at the university park (parc de la paix); outdoor (Figs. 7 and 8).



Fig. 4 Session's Chairmen, Dr N. Passas, and Dr J. Vardakas, attending the presentation of Ms K. Rylander



Fig. 5 Photos from the welcome party (Dr Khaled Rabie and ICTF-2016 secretary Mrs Rania Doufexi)

3. Cultural Activity

On the last day of the conference (July 8), a cultural activity took place, by visiting the nearby imposing bridge of 2860 m (as shown in Fig. 1, it became symbol of ICTF 2016), Patras archaeological museum (Fig. 6) and Ancient Olympia (archaeological museum and site, including the ancient stadium of the Olympic Games).



Fig. 6 Entrance of Patras Archaeological Museum - Floor mosaic (Three Graces) 2-3 century CE (AD)



Fig. 7 Prof. F. Adachi, Prof. K. Mase, Prof. S. Shioda, Prof. S. Takahashi, Prof. M. Aida, Mr. R. Sawada, Mr. R. Morita, Ms A. Arno, Prof. I. Sasase, Mr. T. Matsunaga, enjoying drinks and photos before dinner



Fig. 8 Dr I. Moscholios, Dr A. Wielgoszewska, Prof. P. Zwierzykowski, Prof. M. Glabowski, Prof. M. Stasiak, Dr J. Vardakas (visible faces), enjoying drinks and discussions before dinner



Fig. 9 Guided tour at Olympia's archaeological museum spending much time in front of the famous statues of Hermes of Praxiteles and Niki (= victory) of Paionios



Fig. 10 Photos at the entrance of the ancient stadium of the Ancient Olympic Games (Prof. S. Shioda, Prof. M. Logothetis, and Prof. K. Mase)



Fig. 11 Prof. M. Stasiak, Dr K. Rylander, Prof. S. Takahashi, Prof. V. Stylianakis, Prof. M. Logothetis, at the entrance of Olympia's archaeological site



Fig. 12 (a) Relaxing under the shadow of an olive oil tree. (b) Dr J. Vardakas, Prof. P. Zwierzykowski, Dr V. Vassilakis, Prof. M. Glabowski, photographed on the hill next to Olympia's ancient stadium

4. Acknowledgments

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to thank all ICTF authors, keynote and invited speakers, TPC members and additional reviewers, for their contribution to the great success of ICTF 2016.

We would like to thank IEICE and IEICE-CS which constantly sponsor financially the ICTF, so that it becomes a well-structured bridge between Europe and Japan. We ought many thanks to our Polish colleagues Mariusz Glabowski and Piotr Zwierzykowski (Professors of Poznan University of Technology) as well as to Prof. Maciej Piechowiak (Kazimierz Wielki University) who greatly assisted the ICTF 2016 event. We especially appreciate the financial support received by DIALOG SEMICONDUCTOR, a high-tech company with a big branch in Patras, Greece (staffed mostly by graduates of the University of Patras - a big branch also exists in Tokyo, Japan); thanks to this sponsorship, we offer to ICTF participants the visit to "Charilaos Trikoupis" bridge and the archaeological museums and sites. Finally, we would like to thank the authorities of the University of Patras who paid a special attention in supporting this event financially, while overcoming obstacles put by the well-known "Greek Crisis".

5. IEICE ICTF 2017 Call For Papers

We are delighted to announce that the 2017 IEICE ICTF will be hosted by the Poznan University of Technology, at its Conference Center in Poznan, Poland. For more details, we invite you to visit the website: <http://www.ictf2017.ieice-europe.org/>.