Welcome to the technical program of ICME 2003!

This year we received about 760 paper submissions and accepted 440 of them for presentation in either oral or poster sessions, including the special sessions. In addition, there are about 150 papers from ICASSP that will also be presented at ICME 2003. The technical program contains all topics of interests related to the field of multimedia, and the quality of papers selected in the program is very good. We have authors from 52 countries all over the world making ICME a truly international conference.

The selection of outstanding papers for the program is not an easy task. First, multimedia is a diverse area involving several technical disciplines that are very different from each other. Second, it was necessary to mobilize approximately 250 reviewers to accomplish the reviews in time. The technical program team did an excellent job in coordinating this year’s review process! I would like to thank the Technical Program Vice-Chairs: Reha Civanlar, Shih-Fu Chang, Joern Ostermann, and John Sorensen, who took the leadership role in organizing the review process in their corresponding areas. We also had many track chairs that worked in assigning papers for review, interacting with reviewers, and making decisions in selecting papers for acceptance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals who made the paper selection process smooth: Yucel Altunbasak, Jeff Bloom, Tsuhan Chen, Jean Luc Dugelay, Adriana Dumitras, Alexandros Eleftheriadis, Allen Ginsberg, James LeBlanc, Nasir Memon, Igor Pandzic, Siegmund Pastoor, Fernando Pereira, Hayder Radha, John R. Smith, Hari Sundaram, Jeffrey Tsai, Mihaela van der Schaar, and Zixiang Xiong. One of the most important components of the technical program committee, the group who safeguards the quality of the program, is the reviewer. There were more than 250 dedicated reviewers who volunteered their time and effort to produce this year’s technical program. I would like to recognize them as one of the most important elements of the technical program who continually provide their expertise in safeguarding the quality of the program. I would also like to thank Lance Cotton of Conference Management Services. Those who have worked with Lance will agree with me that he is extremely efficient and dedicated. Without Lance, the paper review process wouldn’t have been so smooth. My wholehearted thanks to everyone.

There will be two types of presentation: oral and poster. There are no simple methods for determining which papers go into which sessions. The oral sessions allow authors to present their work in a non-interrupted speech that can be well received by a large audience if the presentation is well given, while the poster sessions foster an excellent interaction environment between the authors and audience. Although some participants prefer oral and some prefer poster, I urge you to visit all the sessions and participate in the discussion and debate. Our purpose for attending a conference is not only to present our own work, but also to exchange ideas with one another.

Furthermore, the human aspect of attending a conference is vital as well; it is important to recognize our colleagues from every corner of the world. This is the best time to get to know people and build valuable relationships. Don’t be too shy; this is a great opportunity to network. I have often observed that people from the same institution talking more at a conference than in their own offices. During the conference, I urge you to make new acquaintances rather than mingling with colleagues you already know. Try to make new friends -- a simple smile and hello can bring two persons from different parts of the world together in a rich environment.

Finally, on behalf of the Technical Program Committee, I hope you will enjoy the technical program, as well as the conference.

K. J. Ray Liu
Technical Program Chair