

Chairman's Message



On behalf of the Organising Committee of the Eighth International Conference on Control, Automation, Robotics and Vision (ICARCV2004), I welcome you to Kunming, a beautiful city well known as the "Spring City" in China. Inaugurated in 1990, ICARCV is a biennial event and has proven to be a premium forum where researchers, professionals and engineers in the area of Control, Automation, Robotics, Computer Vision and Emerging Technologies meet to interact and exchange the latest theoretical and experimental results in these five areas. The future ICARCV will strive to serve the same purpose and to help delegates to be in touch with us, a permanent email address (icarcv@ntu.edu.sg) and website (<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/eee/icarcv>) have been setup.

I am pleased to report that after about one and a half year of planning and hard work, we have assembled an interesting and exciting Program covering the main theme of the Conference, namely Control, Automation, Robotics, Computer Vision and Emerging Technologies. This is the first time ICARCV is held outside Singapore. ICARCV2004 will be held from Monday, 6 December 2004 through Thursday, 9 December 2004 at the Kai Wah Plaza Hotel, Kunming, People's Republic of China. This is also the first time the Conference is co-organized by the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Republic of Singapore and Nanjing University of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China and co-sponsored by many international professional organizations and institutions. The Organizing Committee is deeply appreciative of the very strong support given by the two universities and the generous support from the Lee Foundation, Singapore and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

Thanks to the tireless work of the Organizing Committee, the Technical Program Committee, Invited Session Organizers, Keynote Speakers and all other contributors, an excellent Program has been assembled to cover a broad spectrum of interesting topics on Control Theory and Applications, Robotics and Automation, Computer Vision and Emerging Technologies. This is the first time in the ICARCV history that we have received more than 900 submissions including 159 invited papers. It is also the first time that we have interactive sessions. A CD-ROM containing the Conference Proceedings will be distributed at the conference. All accepted papers will be included in the IEEE Electronic Library (IEL) after the conference and the Proceedings of ICARCV2004 will be included in the EI Compendex. The best paper will be awarded during the conference banquet on Wednesday (8 December, 2004) evening. A local tour to the famous "Stone Forest" will be organized for all delegates on 9 December 2004. This is the first time that a local tour is organized for all delegates during the Conference. The tour will not only provide the delegates and their loved ones an excellent opportunity of sightseeing in Kunming, it will also facilitate further networking among all delegates. We sincerely hope that all delegates will be able to join the tour.

The highlights of ICARCV2004's Program include three keynote speeches, namely

1. Autonomous Navigation in Unstructured Environments by *Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte*, The University of Sydney, Australia;
2. Electronic Watermarking: The First 50 Years by *Professor Ingemar J. Cox*, University College London, United Kingdom;

3. Two Decades of Adaptive Control Pitfalls by *Professor Brian D.O. Anderson*, Australian National University, Australia.

During your stay, I encourage you to explore the beautiful sights of Kunming. Kunming has been designed as a Special Tourism Center and as such has proliferating high-rise and luxury hotels. Great gourmet cuisine is available at local restaurants and the streets are alive with roadside masseurs, peddlers, shoppers and occasional peddlers of musical instruments who demonstrate their musical talent. The great variety of nationalities in Yunnan can be seen in the streets of Kunming. The southern atmosphere and the variety of cultures and custom can be enjoyed while strolling through the market streets away from the big avenues of the city.

I take this opportunity to thank members of the Organizing Committee for their enthusiasm, commitments, dedications and hard work, and the distinguished International Advisory Committee members for their invaluable support and assistance. In particular, I would like to thank the Co-Chairman, Professor Bo Yuming and his colleagues for their excellent efforts in making ICARCV2004 a great success. Special thanks should go to the President of the Nanyang Technological University, Professor Su Guaning and the President of Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Professor Xu Fuming for taking time off from their very busy schedules to grace the occasion as Guest of Honour. I would also like to express my appreciation of the Dean of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Professor Er Meng Hwa and the Head of Control and Instrumentation Division and Advisor of the Organising Committee, Professor Soh Yeng Chai for their advice, support and leadership in ensuring that the preparation of the conference can proceed smoothly. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the authors, the reviewers and the delegates for their contributions and participation. The Conference will not be a success without your expertise and active participation. On behalf of the Organising Committee, I thank you for making this Conference a great success.

May you stay in Kunming, China be an enriching, pleasant and memorable one.

Meng Joo Er
General Chairman, ICARCV2004