

INTERCONNECT



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ITS Biennial 2006 Fast Approaching

The ITS 16th Biennial Conference to be held in Beijing, June 12-16, is fast approaching. The Conference has the theme 'Information Communication Technology (ICT): Opportunities and Challenges for the Telecommunications Industry', is hosted by China Institute of Communications (CIC) and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT). Organizers have received an overwhelming response to the Call for Papers. The Organizing Committee received 368 paper submissions. A rigorous review team led by Dr. Tim Kelly (Program Co-chair of ITS2006 and Head, Strategy and Policy Unit, International Telecommunications Union; ITU) rejected 90 papers. Among those accepted papers, included 40 papers submitted by PhD students. Student papers are assigned to 8 workshops for student research held in parallel with Conference Parallel sessions. Distinguished scholars will be invited to comment on student papers and presentations. The intention is to assist in the training of emerging scholars in the area of telecommunications. They are the future leaders of our industry and our Society. Other papers are sorted into Parallel Sessions. Themes include, 'Emerging Technologies and Their Implications', 'Regulatory Frameworks in the Age of Convergence', 'E-Entertainment' and 'Ubiquitous Communication'. Keynote Speakers from China and overseas are invited and include government officials at ministerial level from the Ministry of Information Industry of China. Speakers from the EU will address the current cooperation projects on ICT between China and the EC. A specific session on China's telecommunications market is also planned.

A colorful social program is organized for participants and their companions. In addition to a day tour to the Great Wall, a farewell dinner will be held in the Summer Palace. For detailed information see articles below. The organization of the ITS2006 is in its critical stage, although preparations are progressing smoothly so far. To make ITS2006 a great success, we need your continued support. If you would like to act as a Session Chair or give comment to student presentations in the student research workshop, please email the organization committee at its@its2006bupt.org. Registration is

Message from the Chair



Dear ITS Members,

Biennial Conferences are the Society's most significant regularly scheduled event. At Biennial meetings Society members gather to discuss cutting-edge research, present recent findings, forge new and reinforce existing contacts. ITS Biennial Conferences always are attractive to first-time attendees. This group of

delegates often regularly attend subsequent ITS events and often become long-standing members of the Society. The Biennial Conference registration fee includes a two-year Society membership component, thus providing an added benefit to delegates and an entry point for Society members.

The opportunity to hold a Biennial Conference, given its perceived importance within the industry, has proved attractive to committed organizers and organizations. In particular, the meetings are the recipient of cutting-edge academic leadership and a group of globally important corporate sponsors. Also, the expanding global reach of the Society has meant that new and exciting venues are continuing to emerge. Recent Biennial meetings have convened in Tokyo, Boston, Venice, Sophia Antipolis, Sydney, Seville, Stockholm, Buenos Aires, Seoul and, most recently, Berlin. Just mentioning these cities evokes many happy memories!

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ITS Biennial 2006 Fast Approaching (cont'd)

available online via www.its2006bupt.org. The registration, which includes a two-year ITS membership for delegates and students, is US\$490 (US\$250 for students) for registrations before April 15. The Preliminary Schedule is available at www.its2006bupt.org/preliminary%20program.htm. Hotel information and booking is also available on the Conference Web site.

The Summer Palace

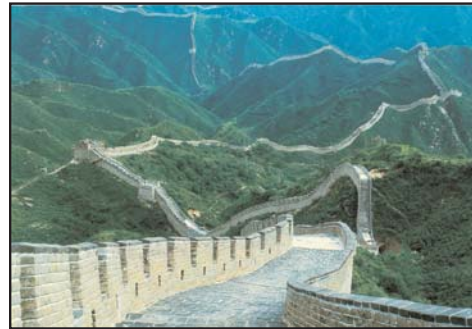
The Summer Palace is the best-kept existing Royal Garden in Beijing. The Palace is a virtual museum of traditional Chinese gardening concentrating on the best of ancient buildings and gardening styles. The Palace was first named the Garden of Clear Ripples, which was burnt down



by the allied forces of Great Britain and France in 1860. Reconstruction started 25 years later and completed in 1895. At this time the name changed to Yiheyuan (Garden of Good Health and Harmony). The design gives prominence to the Longevity Hill and the Kunming Lake. The total area is 290 hectares, and the buildings are measured in over 3,000 bays.

The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China was built over 2,000 years ago, by Qin Shi Huangdi, the first emperor of China during the Qin (Ch'in) Dynasty (221 BC–206 BC). In Chinese the wall is called 'Wan-Li Chang-Cheng' which means 10,000-Miles Long Wall. After subjugating and uniting China from seven Warring States, the Emperor connected and extended four old fortification walls along the north of China that originated about 700 BC. Armies were stationed along the Wall as a first line of defense against the invading nomadic Hsiung Nu tribes north of China (the Han). Signal fires



from the Wall provided early warning of an attack. The Great Wall is one of the largest building construction projects ever completed, and stretches across the mountains of northern China, winding north and northwest of Beijing. The Wall is constructed of masonry, rocks and packed earth, and was over 5,000 km long. Its thickness ranges from 4.5 to 9 meters (15 to 30 feet) and is up to 7.5 meters (25 feet) in height. During the Ming Dynasty (1368 AD–1644 AD), the Great Wall

was enlarged to a length of 6,400 km (or 4,000 miles) while being renovated over a 200 year period. Watch-towers and cannons were also added. The

Great Wall can be seen from Earth orbit but, contrary to legend, is not visible from the moon (according to astronauts Neil Armstrong, Jim Lovell, and Jim Irwin).

An excellent resource for persons planning to travel within China as part of their trip to Beijing 2006 is located at www.travelchinaguide.com.

17th ITS European Regional Conference

The ITS 17th European Regional Conference is to be held in Amsterdam, August 22–24, 2006. The Conference is hosted by the University of Amsterdam, in Oudemanhuispoort. Principal Organizers are Brigitte Preissl (Deutsche Telekom), Harry Bouwman (Delft University of Technology) and N.A.N.M. van Eijk (Instituut voor Informatierecht). Conference Sponsors are the Institute for Information Law (University of Amsterdam), the Telematica Institute (Delft University) and TNO. Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands, lies on the banks of the IJ bay and the Amstel River.

Founded in the late 12th Century as a small fishing village, it is now the largest city in The Netherlands and a financial and cultural centre. The population of greater Amsterdam is approximately one and a half million. Amsterdam has a large historic city center dating largely from the Golden Age of the 17th Century. At this time, a series of concentric, semi-circular canals were built around the older city centre, which still defines its layout and appearance today. Fine houses and mansions are situated along the canals; many now are offices and public buildings. The city is notable for many outstanding

museums and its world-class symphony orchestra, the Concertgebouworkest. Amsterdam is neither the capital of the province in which it is located, North Holland (which is Haarlem), nor the seat of government (which is The Hague).

The Organisation Committee invites conference papers in a wide area of information and communication technology development and its impact on economies and societies. Please send an abstract (300–500 words) to ITS Europe (itseurope@diw.de) and to Brigitte Preissl (brigitte.preissl@telekom.de)

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17th ITS European Regional Conference (cont'd)

no later than April 15, 2006.

The Organizers encourage contribution to the Conference by presenting a paper, by acting as a Session Chair or by organizing a focused Special Session (please send suggestions). Papers should be in English and based on current research. Next-generation telecommunication infrastructure and services are a high priority on the agenda of telecommunication operators, service providers, IT manufacturers, policy makers and regulators. The Conference considers technological developments, infrastructure issues (such as network evolution, vulnerability and flexibility, and service opportunities) as well as market and regulatory challenges. Particular attention is paid to end-user response to new technical configurations and additional services. Themes include: technology and infrastructure; regulation; the customer perspective; mobile communication; broadband and content; telecommunication markets; and the information society. Preliminary Program, travel and venue information is available from: <http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/%7Ejmueller/its/conf/amsterdam06/index.htm>.



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Message from the Chair (cont'd)

For many years it has been an ITS priority to convene a Biennial meeting in China. Finally, at this point in the Society's history the Chinese proverb, 'add a flower to a bouquet' is to be realised. Indeed, in Beijing from 12–16 June 2006 our Conference host, the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT) will attempt to 'make improvements upon something good with an attempt at perfection'. Interestingly, the 16th Biennial Conference has the theme 'Information Communication Technology (ICT): Opportunities and Challenges for the Telecommunications Industry'. ITS is particularly thankful for the leadership of Professor Ting-Jie Lu, Dean of the School of Economics and Management at BUPT, and Professor Xu Yan of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology for realizing this Biennial Conference. I encourage all Society members to attend and to visit the Conference Web site to view the Preliminary Program. Other relevant information concerns hotel registration and post-Conference tours.

Foremost, the 2006 Biennial Conference is an important meeting place to discuss the future of telecommunications and ICTs and their impact on society. The Conference's primary mission is to provide a non-aligned and non-profit forum where academic, private sector, and government communities can meet to identify pressing new problems and issues, share research results, and form new relationships and approaches to address outstanding issues. ITS places particular emphasis on the interrelationships among socioeconomic, technological, legal, regulatory, competitive, organizational, policy, and ethical dimensions of the evolving applications, services, technology, and infrastructure of the communications, computing, Internet, information content, and related industries.

Likewise, ITS regional conferences are critical to the mission of ITS and provide an alternative forum for more geographically orientated debates. With this in mind, the ITS is pleased to announce that the 17th European Regional ITS Conference is to be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, August 22–24, 2006. This Conference focuses on next generation telecommunication infrastructure and services, and is hosted by the University of Amsterdam. Conference Co-chairs are Professor N.A.N.M. van Eijk (University of Amsterdam), Professor Harry Bouwman (Delft University) and Dr. Brigitte Preissl (Deutsche Telekom).

ITS is grateful to our many regional conference organizers. Notable contributors to this long tradition of ITS European Regional conferences that has resulted in 14 European country events since 1987, include ITS Board member Professor Juergen Mueller. ITS is also proud to acknowledge Dr. Brigitte Preissl, also ITS Board member, as a driver of ITS European Regional Conferences. The recent ITS European Regional in Porto, 2005, showcased Dr. Preissl's skill and ingenuity in organizing thematic sessions, engaging discussants and attracting quality papers. The Porto conference was a recent and very well attended European regional event. Furthermore, ITS Board member Gary Madden convened two Asia-Australian Regional ITS conferences in Perth, the most recent in 2005. Both events are highly acclaimed, well-attended and generated several books and journals issues, testifying to the high academic and professional qualities of the local organizers at Curtin Business School, Perth. ITS Board member Teodosio Pérez Amaral and past ITS Board member Fernando Gallardo organized the Pontevedra Regional Conference in 2005. Both Teodosio and Fernando were principal organizers of the 1996 ITS biennial in Seville, and the Madrid European Regional in 2002. Recently, ITS has also supported workshops at the IDATE International Conferences. From these events where a special issue of the ITS journal *Communications & Strategies* is issued, with many contributions from ITS members. All of these examples testify to the friendships that have been built through the ITS network, and the long-standing commitments of the ITS regional partners.

ITS also participates in jointly-organized conferences. A recent example is ITS joining with Medetel's Annual E-health Conference, to be held 5–7 April in Luxembourg. ITS shares the conference with several major international organizations including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH), the European Health Telematics Association and the World Health Organization (WHO). This Conference represents a broadening of the traditional topics examined by ITS and is therefore a very welcome initiative. Furthermore, ITS is to sponsor Special Sessions at the 11th Congress of International

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Message from the Chair (cont'd)

Society for Tele-health, 26–29 November, 2006, in Cape Town. Significantly, ITS Vice-Chair Lucy Firth has secured benefits for ITS members attending these events.

As Chair, I am also pleased to welcome on board two distinguished Board members: Professor Ting-Jie Lu, Dean of the School of Economics and Management at the BUPT (Beijing) and Dr. Aniruddha Banerjee, Vice President, NERA Economic Consulting (Boston, Massachusetts). Similarly, on behalf of the Society I wish to thank departing Board members: Professor Cristiano Antonelli (University of Torino), Professor Gérard Pogorel (ENST Paris), Dr. Lorenzo Pupillo (Telecom Italia) and Dr. Momin Hayee (BT). I would elaborate on all the fine contributions they have made individually and as a group, however because of the limited space made available to me, I will not attempt to do justice to their many contributions. However, I wish to mention that Professor Antonelli, Professor Pogorel and Dr. Pupillo each served in the important role of Program Chair of an ITS Biennial, (1990 in Venice, 1992 in Sophia Antipolis and 2000 in Buenos Aires, respectively).

At this time it is appropriate to indicate that ITS is extremely proud to be associated with its Corporate Sponsors and Society Members, the support of which is critical to the vitality of ITS. In particular, on behalf of the Society, I wish to acknowledge and extend our appreciation to: Arnold & Porter, BT, BAKOM, Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom, IDATE, Infocom, KT, NERA Economic Consulting, NTT DoCoMo, Telecommunications Authority of Turkey and TELUS. Without the government and industry engagement the ITS would find it most difficult to fulfill its mission.

To be effective, ITS depends on hearing from our members and the public. Please let us know how the Society can continue to most effectively serve your professional interests and ambitions. For more information on ITS and upcoming events please visit the Society's Web site (www.itsworld.org). I look forward to working with you and hope to see you at many ITS events.

Sincerely,
Erik Boblin
ITS Chair

Porto Board of Directors Meeting Report

The ITS Board of Directors met on September 3, 2005 in Porto, Portugal, prior to the 16th ITS European Regional Conference held in

association with the 32nd EARIE Conference. The 2005 ITS Board meeting was attended by over 70% of Directors. The Board welcomed new Board Members elected at or since the

Berlin meeting: T. Ayhan Beydogan, Patricia Longstaff, Stephen Schmidt and Masatsugu Tsuji. The first order of business was the Beijing Biennial Conference. Xu

Yan made a presentation on the Beijing Biennial Conference and recapped the Hong Kong Mobility Roundtable held in June 2005. The Roundtable was a great success in terms of the quality of presentations and overall Conference organization. Another issue considered by the Board was a review and approval of revised

by-laws led by Sandy Levin. Two major changes were suggested: (1) the use of proxy voting is no longer allowed at Board meetings; and (2) a 60% majority of the entire Board (not merely present at a Board meeting) is required to make changes to by-laws. Also, Don Romaniuk noted that as well as a liability insurance issue, the

use of proxy voting runs counter to the principle of individual Board member accountability. Sandy Levin stated that the reason for making it

more difficult to amend by-laws in future is to preclude the possibility that a bare majority of board members constituting a quorum could completely re-write the Society's by-laws.

This voting requirement is likely to ensure that future changes to the by-laws will be in the interests of the majority of the ITS membership.

Sandy Levin explained that the only restriction placed on participation in Board meetings by video-conferencing as an alternative to attendance is that the remote participant(s)

must be able to hear other Board members and be able to be heard. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board Chair announced that the next meeting

of the Board would be held in Beijing prior to the start of the Biennial Conference. Further to this the Board's time at the 2005 Porto meeting was aimed at Committee

activities and reports. These reports are summarized starting on page 5 in the 'Connections' section of *Interconnect*.



Connections

Membership and Nominations Committee

Sandy Levin presented the report of the Membership and Nominations Committee

Sandy advised that two new Corporate Global Members have joined the ITS since the Berlin Board meeting: The Telecommunications Authority of Turkey and KT (Korea Telecom); and that two new Board members had been elected: T. Ayhan Beydogan of Turkey and Stephen Schmidt of Canada. Sandy reminded Board members to keep their individual memberships current and that of Board members representing Corporate Sponsors whose membership fees are in arrears. Recommendations for the election to the Board of two new Board members were also approved: Professor Johannes M. Bauer (Executive Director, Quello Center for Telecommunication Management and Law and Professor, Michigan State University) and Vianney Hennes (Senior VP European and International Regulation, France Telecom). The Board approved Vianney Hennes to replace Elisabeth Dognin as France Telecom's representative on the ITS Board. The Board thanked Elisabeth Dognin for her dedicated service and contributions to ITS during her tenure and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Finance Committee

Leland Schmidt presented the Financial Report to the Board

As reported in the Berlin meeting the ITS remains in a sound financial position. Cash reserves were strengthened due to ITS' traditional two year revenue cycle. With 2004 a Biennial Conference year revenues increased substantially. Revenues are obtained from Corporate Membership fees, two-year Individual membership fees (mostly from the Berlin conference with a few via the Web site) and bank interest. Principal expense items in



2004 included Board expense reimbursement, newsletter publishing and marketing costs, and costs for *Communications & Strategies*. Other expenses included liability insurance, Secretariat expenses, bank card fees (for processing individual memberships and conference registration fees) and franchise (legal) fees. Leland Schmidt also presented the Interim Financial Report for 2005, noting that the number of new and renewed individual memberships processed via the Web site rose rapidly (40 via this medium in the first 7 months of 2005—2½ times the 2004 total). Lucy Firth, the Board Vice Chair, attributed this outcome to improvements in the ITS Web site's transaction processing capability, increased individual membership marketing activity and the introduction of new billing initiatives, and thanked Leland Schmidt, Stanford Levin and Don Romaniuk for their efforts. Leland Schmidt reported that he did not foresee any major departure in this financial trend.

Strategic Planning Committee

Lucy Firth presented the Report of the Strategic Planning Committee

Lucy Firth perceived a need for a thorough reassessment of the goals, focus and mandate of ITS. Erik Bohlin noted that the ITS 'brand' attracts many strong academic contributors to ITS conferences which is a principal goal under the current structure. Brigitte Preissl considered that the core strength of ITS remains a focus on regulatory economics. Loretta Anania added that the ITS is a 'research conference' organization, not an 'industrial conference' organization. That is, the ITS needs to maintain its core strengths (law and economics,

economic theory, industry research, and regulatory strategy and policy) while branching out into related new areas through conference 'niche' sessions for broader appeal, as well as attracting PhD students and new scholars to events. Lucy Firth added that e-health is an area in which the ITS is starting to achieve some success. Erik Bohlin requested a revised draft of the official ITS Mission Statement from the SPC for consideration. The SPC is directing its attention towards expanding ITS membership in other parts of the world (e.g. the Indian sub-continent, Southeast Asia, Africa and South America) to attract a more diverse audience, in terms of interests and skills. Consistent with suggestions received from ITS members in the 2004 online survey undertaken by the SPC, Lucy Firth added that ITS needs to begin moving forward to offer online conferences and other ways to bring members together. With this in mind, the ITS should consider how to leverage its current publications to advance this strategy. Andrea Kavanaugh suggested updating the content of the Web site to include online tutorials in areas in which ITS members have expertise. Discussion regarding the annual ITS online survey ensued.

Publications Committee

Erik Bohlin summarized the Publications Committee Report on behalf of Gary Madden who was not able to attend

The report highlighted activity since the Berlin Board meeting. Importantly, the contract signed with *Communications & Strategies* was extended for a 2-year period. *Communications & Strategies* is now organized around an 'issue theme' consisting of three to four articles, selected by the Editorial Committee. Each issue includes an interview with an academic or institutional representative. The Editorial Committee welcomes submissions

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Connections (cont'd)

from other sources. The Committee called for Don Romaniuk to be congratulated on his enhancement of both the *Interconnect* newsletter and the Society's Web site (www.itsworld.org). Other ITS publication activity listed in the report includes the Berlin 2004 conference volume to be published by Springer, edited by Brigitte Preissl and Jürgen Müller. The conference also led to the production of special issues of *Telecommunications Policy* and *INFO*. The Perth 2005 conference will lead to the publication of a book to be published by Physica-Verlag, Heidelberg, edited by Russel Cooper, Ashley Lloyd, Gary Madden and Michael Schipp. Journals that have expressed interest in publishing papers from the conference include: *Asia-Pacific Journal of Economics and Business*, *Telecommunications Policy* and the *Journal of Universal Science and Technology of Learning*. Further, organizers of forthcoming conferences were encouraged to publish selected papers from their conferences, suggesting the official ITS journal *Communications & Strategies* and *Telecommunications Policy*.

Marketing and Promotions Committee

Don Romaniuk presented the Report of the Marketing and Promotions Committee

The MPC has four main areas of responsibility: (1) to publish *Interconnect* the official newsletter of ITS; (2) to publish an updated ITS brochure every 12 to 18 months; (3) to maintain and update the content of the ITS Web site; and (4) to maintain and update the ITS-L Listserv distribution list and exploit its potential. Since July 2004 issues of *Interconnect* are published only in electronic form. Publishing costs plummeted as a result.

The release of each new issue is provided by e-mail via the ITS-L Listserv, with current and all past issues stored on the ITS Web site. A new and revamped ITS brochure was published in July 2005. 5,000 copies

printed and distributed to ITS conference organizers and ITS Board members. The brochure is also available on the ITS Web site. The MPC spent more time updating and adding new content to the ITS Web site in 2004-2005 than in the previous 5 years combined. Entire sections of the Web site were revised and updated several times with new sections added. TELUS Corporation of Canada continues to host and maintain the ITS Web site in exchange for a corporate global membership. No direct cost is incurred by ITS for the Web site over the past 12 months. Discussion regarding posting of all past conference papers on the ITS Web site followed. Don Romaniuk noted that links to all known and existing past conference Web sites are on the ITS Web site. Usage of the ITS-L Listserv continued to grow over the past 12 months and is anticipated to intensify in the future.

Conference Committee

Teodosio Pérez Amaral presented the Conference Committee Report

The focus of Teodosio's Report was on conference fees, seed money for regional conference organizers and guidelines for co-sponsored events. The Board discussed the degree of flexibility that ITS co-sponsored event organizers should have in negotiating benefits for members wishing to attend such events. Also discussed was the level of assistance the ITS should offer. It was agreed that the Conference Committee should develop guidelines for ITS' participation in co-sponsored events, for the Board's consideration. Also discussed was the net benefit or cost regional conferences obtain from ITS and vice versa, as well as the optimal number of regional conferences held under the ITS banner each year. A discussion of seed money for regional conferences occurred with no decision made.

Calendar of Events

2006

April

Med-e-Tel 2006 Conference
on E-health,
Luxemburg,
April 5-7

June

16th ITS Biennial Conference,
Beijing, China,
June 12-16

August

17th ITS European Regional
Conference,
Amsterdam, The Netherlands,
August 22-24

September

34th Research Conference on
Communication, Information,
and Internet Policy,
Arlington, Virginia,
September 29-October 1

November

11th Congress of
International Society
for Tele-health,
Cape Town, South Africa,
November 26-29

Regional Conference Reports

ITS provides forums where academic, business, and government researchers as well as industry practitioners, policy makers, representatives of international bodies, and consultants present and discuss research results, and share and explore new ideas. The most important of such forums is a series of ITS biennial international conferences. However, a series of smaller regional conferences are important contributions, regularly drawing large numbers of delegates and generating valuable discussion. Three such conferences were held in the second-half of 2005.

Perth

The Africa-Asia-Australasia Regional Conference, with the theme 'ICT Networks—Building Blocks for Economic Development', was held August 28–30, 2005 in an unusually cold Perth, Western Australia, the most windy mainland capital city on Earth. The principal organizer was Gary Madden, with host Curtin University of Technology. Sponsors included NERA Economic Consulting, CRA International, Optus and the Australian Commonwealth Department of Communications,

Information Technology and the Arts. The Conference offered delegates an opportunity to address e-business issues in a regional context. In making

regional assessments, particular emphasis was placed on risks and barriers to the realisation of business opportunity. The conference aimed to build bridges with stakeholder groups—especially the facilitation of research partnerships with business. Tracks included: B2B and

B2C E-Commerce Markets; Current Development and the Prospects for Mobile Networks; Digital Divide; Global Corporate Strategy; Grid Computing and Networks of Innovation; Innovations in Electronic Banking and Financial Markets; Network Investment Evaluation and Real Options; Product Bundling and Lessons for the

Internet; and Virtual Education and Digital Libraries. The Conference was opened by Professor Teodosio Pérez Amara (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) the ITS Conference Committee Chair. The opening was followed by a Welcome Address from Gary Madden. Keynote speakers include Jerry Hausman (MIT), Andy Banerjee (NERA Economic Consulting), Jim Alleman (University of Colorado), Ian Harper (Melbourne Business School) and Graham Vickery (OECD). 89

Parallel Session papers were accepted for presentation. 13 Plenary Session papers were also presented. The Conference attracted 108 delegates

from 17 countries. Delegates were from academia (54), business (12), regulatory agencies (11), research institutes (30) and international organisations (1). The *James Alleman Best Student Paper Prize*, to support and encourage excellence in communications and electronic

market and related area research, was presented to Mira Slavova—University of Cambridge, for the paper entitled, 'Behavioural Friction in Online Contracting: Evidence from

Yankee Auctions'. Criteria for the award include research quality and originality. Judgment is not biased by technical orientation, such as extensive use of

mathematics or skewed toward particular disciplines. The award consisted of telecommunications-related publications from Edward Elgar Publishing. Mira's paper forms part of the conference volume, *The Economics of Online Markets and ICT Networks* published in 2006 by Physica-Verlag. The publishers of *Telecommunications Policy* (Elsevier, Amsterdam), *Journal for Universal Science and Technology of Learning* (Inderscience, UK) and *Asia Pacific Journal of Economics and Business* (Curtin Business School, Australia and the Association of Economic Studies Ryukoku University Japan) have proposed several conference papers be included in journal Special Issues.

Porto

The 16th ITS European Regional Conference was held in beautiful Porto, the second largest city in Portugal, September 4–6, 2005. As is now tradition, the ITS annual European Regional Conference was held in association with the annual Conference of the European Association of Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE), September 1–4. Principal organizers were Joao Silva

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Regional Conference Reports (cont'd)

and Brigitte Preissl and host the Universidade Católica Portuguesa. The conference was proudly

sponsored by Catholic University of Portugal, ANACOM, Rén Telecom, Invação, Deutsche Bank, BT and DIW Berlin. A vast array of content was contained in

papers selected for presentation. Parallel Sessions focused on contributions to ongoing debate and revisions of traditional knowledge. Apart from discussing new developments in telecommunication regulation in many countries and regions, the papers covered theoretical analyses of regulatory problems and questions arising from the widespread use of networked systems as well as studies of specific market developments and of the



impact of technological innovation on companies, markets and the economy. The conference focused on

telecommunications infrastructure, services, impacts and policy. Sub-themes included: Regulatory Practice in Europe; Competition and Market Performance in Telecommunications; Improving Telecommunications Infrastructure; Structural Change in Telecommunications Industries;

Internationalization of Telecommunication Markets: the Enlarged EU and Beyond; Broadband: Promises and Perspectives; Internet: Regulatory and Strategic

Issues; Mobile Services: What Next?; Information Society Issues: Winners and Losers; Broadcasting: Technology and Content. The conference, which was opened by Erik Bohlin ITS Chair, attracted 145 delegates from 29 countries, many from outside Europe. 93 presentations were given more than 28 sessions. The next ITS European Regional Conference will be in Amsterdam, August 22-24, 2006. Please add these dates to your calendar. Further information is provided at page 2 of this issue of *Interconnect*. Please also visit www.itsworld.org regularly for updates on all ITS conferences, seminars and workshops around the world.



Teodosio Pérez Amaral

Teo is Professor Titular de Fundamentos del Análisis Económico and Professor of Telecommunications Economicas, Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Professor Pérez received his PhD in Economics in 1989 from University of California, San Diego, under supervision from Hal White, with whom he continues to work. Teodosio has been Titulado Superior, Research Department, Banco de España, since 1988. His current research interests include applied econometrics with a focus on telecoms markets and

telecommunications demand systems. Teo's extensive professional responsibilities have encompassed being the President, Organizing Committee of the Meetings of Telecoms Economics; Member, Board of Directors, ITS; President, Local Arrangements Committee of the ITS regional meeting in Madrid (September, 2002); and Director, EECOTEL, Escuela de Economía de las Telecomunicaciones. Teo is currently Chairman of the ITS Conference Committee. He has consulted to the Ministerio de Fomento, Fundación Tomillo and on price squeeze for the European Commission. Teodosio was born in 1956 in Tenerife, Canary Islands and now calls Madrid home. In Madrid he resides with wife Theresa who is also an academic.



Teo welcomes everyone from ITS to visit when in Madrid. Teo and Theresa's house is close to a Natural Park in la Sierra de Madrid, with a beautiful lawn, trees and climbers, especially the clematis. This domestic situation reveals Teo's love of places of natural beauty and gardens. Teo also enjoys travelling and watching wild animals. He very much takes pleasure in massage and other manual and alternative therapy. Teo practices Shiatsu massage and also likes the Thai and Balinese forms. He likes balneotherapy: jacuzzis, saunas, Turkish baths, and all those small but essential pleasures of life. Teo says he is a very good friend and tries to be nice to everybody. Teo and Theresa have three sons who are US citizens.

First Transatlantic Telecom Industry Forum Report

The First Transatlantic Telecom Industry Forum was held in conjunction with the IDATE Conference on November 22nd in Montpellier, France. The presented papers concentrated on events in the US as compared to Europe. Speakers addressed the application of economic theory to the regulatory process. The insights provided by the speakers are particularly important, although disturbing. Overall, the prognosis was discouraging. The US requires serious regulatory reform, but is not likely to achieve it according to Scott Marcus. Other authors are also gloomy about the state of US public policy US and question whether correct economic theory has been applied to the sector. That is, have the market place dynamics been considered? In general, the answer is negative. Each speaker addressed the issues in different ways. For example, Howard Shelanski suggests that a major restructuring of the US regulatory framework is required, as did the presentation by Marcus—each with a different emphasis. Scott Marcus provides an overview of regulation on both sides of the Atlantic to provide a context for discussion. Alain de Fontenay and Jonathan Liebenau re-examined the concept of economics of scale and asks if inefficiencies in firms are hidden by the gross manner in which the network firms are analyzed? If so, then policy-makers have been

concentrating on the wrong issues. Pio Baake, Ulrich Kamecke and Christian Wey re-examined and applied the Schumpeterian thesis. They questioned the need for government intervention in the early stage of an innovative process; even this means that a monopoly will prevail for a certain period of time. In a similar vein James Alleman and Paul Rappoport's presentation questioned whether economic theory has been correctly applied in the policy arena and laments the lack of consideration of the dynamics and uncertainty of the market place in the policy-making process. Overall, the Transatlantic Forum challenged the traditional policy tools, instruments and models from which regulation is derived. In light of these papers, decision makers should judge their policy against the veracity of the models presented at the Seminar. Many of the papers from the Forum appear in *Communications & Strategy* (No. 60, 4th. quarter 2005). The balance will appear in a later issue of the journal. The next Forum will take place at Columbia University in New York City, on 13 October 2006 (Friday), where the focus will be on lessons Europe can offer America. Organizers were James Alleman and Yves Gassot. Valuable help was provided by IDATE, Columbia Institute of Tele-Information (CITI, Columbia University), University of Colorado and the International Telecommunications Society.

Membership Draw Winner

The ITS is pleased to announce that the winner of the free membership draw held on 1 December 2005 is Irina Klevecka. Irina wins a two-year ITS membership valued at US\$ 200 for 2006 and 2007. Irina's name was drawn from more than 100 individual entries from 24 countries. The draw was held in connection with the expansion of the LINKS section of the ITS Web site (www.itsworld.org/links/links.htm). Members submitting new links were eligible. Each link to a communications,

information or technology-related Web site that was held appropriate for addition to the LINKS section qualified for an entry into the draw. Irina submitted 14 links. In addition to extending its congratulations to Irina, ITS wishes to thank all other contributors (especially those submitting multiple entries) for their assistance in adding greater depth and breadth to the LINKS section of the site. Although the draw is over, further links are welcome. Links may be sent to secretariat@itsworld.org.

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With globalization of telecommunications, and the convergence of technologies, services, and regulatory frameworks across the world the ITS has taken on the vital role of serving as the international repository of knowledge for telecommunications issues. The ITS has an active regional and global conference calendar that brings together telecommunications experts from around the world. ITS publications are an acknowledged source of knowledge on telecommunications matters; contributors to those publications represent many perspectives—academic, industry, technological, legal, and public policy. NERA's telecommunications consulting mission has evolved along with the industry itself. Just as most issues now cross network and national boundaries, NERA too must approach its consulting assignments from the broadest possible perspective, utilizing lessons learned from one part of the world to solve problems in another. Through its association with the ITS, and the larger audience that ITS events help to reach, NERA hopes to expand both its expertise in telecommunications consulting and its pool of clients around the world. In addition, NERA also hopes to use the ITS as a superior-quality, international sounding board for its own original telecommunications-related research papers or ideas.

Interconnect

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Publications

ITS Member Publications

Information Technology: Connecting Societies and Markets ed. Brigitte Preissl and Jürgen Müller. Physica-Verlag, Heidelberg

The Economics of Online Markets and ICT Networks, Contributions to Economics Series ed. Russel Cooper, Gary Madden, Ashley Lloyd and Michael Schipp. Physica-Verlag, Heidelberg

Price Elasticities for Telecommunications Services with Reference to Developing Countries Jeffery Wheatley, London School of Economics, London. Available from:
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/media@lse/Default.htm>

Security, Resilience and Communication in Unpredictable Environments such as Terrorism, Natural Disasters and Complex Technology Patricia Longstaff. Harvard University, Cambridge

2005 Guide to Romanian Telecommunications Nicolae Oaca. INA Telecom. Available from:
http://www.inatelecom.org/gr/romanian_guide/default_final.htm

New Media: Technology and Policy in Developing Countries ed. Zandi Lesame. Van Schaik, Pretoria

Wireless Spectrum Management Amit Maitra. McGraw Hill, New York

Special Journal Issues

'Dynamic Solutions to Policy Failures', *Communications & Strategies*, Introduction by Jim Alleman, no. 60, 4th quarter 2005, papers from the First Transatlantic Telecom Industry Forum, Montpellier, France, November 22

Asia Pacific Journal of Economics & Business ed. Sandra Hopkins, forthcoming, papers from ITS Africa-Asia-Australasia Regional Conference, Perth, Western Australia, August 28-30

Telecommunications Policy, ed. Gary Madden and Roger Ham, forthcoming, papers from the ITS Africa-Asia-Australasia Regional Conference, Perth, Western Australia, August 28-30

Journal of Universal Science and Technology of Learning Special Issue, ed. Robert Williams, forthcoming, papers from the ITS Africa-Asia-Australasia Regional Conference, Perth, Western Australia, August 28-30

'How Free is the Radio Spectrum?', *Info* Special Issue, ed. Erik Bohlin, Arnd Weber and Brigitte Preissl

'Mobile Futures', *Telecommunications Policy* ed. Brigitte Preissl, Ulrich Stumpf and Gary Madden, forthcoming, invited papers from the ITS 15th Biennial Conference, Berlin, September 4-7

Forthcoming Communications & Strategies Issues

No. 61—1st quarter 2006
Competition in Two-sided Markets: Application to Information and Communication Industries

No. 62—2nd quarter 2006
When Convergence Really Means Something to the Media Industry

No. 63—3rd quarter 2006
Bundling Strategies and Competition in ICT Industries

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