

# IEEE Signal Processing Society

## Sensor Array and Multichannel (SAM) Technical Committee

Minutes of the ICASSP'09 Meeting

Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, 21 April 2009, 13:00-14:30, Room 3F South Lounge

**Members present:** Kristine Bell (chair), Mats Viberg, Alex Gershman, Yuri Abramovich, Rick Blum, Fulvio Gini, Dominic K.C. Ho, Andreas Jakobsson, Visa Koivunen, Hongbin Li, Raghuvver M. Rao, Shahram Shahbazpanahi, Abdelhak Zoubir

**Associate members:** Doug Cochran, Hongya Ge

**Guests:** Jose Moura, Alex Acero, Yonina Eldar, Amir Leshem

### §1 Welcome new TC members/introductions (Kristine Bell)

Roster distributed. The chair welcomed new members present at the meeting. Short self-introduction by present members and guests.

### §2 CAMSAP'09 report (Yonina Eldar)

Yonina Eldar circulated information material and gave an update regarding CAMSAP'09. The location is Aruba, and the time is Dec. 13-16. All committee members, including TC is fixed. There will be 6 invited speakers and several invited sessions (still open for suggestions). The registration will be 485 USD (incl. meals), Basic room rates: 169 USD. Other hotels are also available in the area. EDAS will be used for submissions and reviews. Call for papers has been distributed in various ways. The web page is available at: [www.conference.iet.unipi.it/camsap09](http://www.conference.iet.unipi.it/camsap09) Raghuvver mentioned possibilities of support from ONR. Yonina will check with Rabi Madan. Dough Cochran and Kristine Bell will assist in this matter.

### §3 SAM 2010 proposal/discussion (Amir Leshem)

Amir Leshem presented a proposal for SAM 2010. The time is Oct. 4-7, 2010, in The Ma'ale Hachamisha Hotel, which is located 15 min. from Jerusalem and 45 min. from Tel-Aviv. Quiet and secluded area. General co-chairs: Hagit Messer and Jeffrey Krolik. The other chair positions are also filled. Room rates starting at 135 USD. Submission of papers: April 2010. Preliminary registration fee: 550 USD for IEEE members. Suggested half rate for students. Break-even with 80 participants.

#### §3.1 Discussion

Some concerns were expressed regarding the proposal:

- The financial chair is not local – Amir will address this
- Security and safety? Amir replies that the location is safer than Washington, for example
- Visa problems with people from certain countries (Syria, Iran etc.). Jose Moura expresses a concern that it must be possible for, for example, Iranians to visit the conference. However, Iranians are not allowed to travel to Israel due to their own regulations. The organizers will look into this issue.

- Zoubir expresses some concern with the timing – SAM is traditionally in the summer. Bell responds that this is a problem whatever time one chooses. The organizers have chosen the time to avoid conflict with other related conferences.

The TC will vote for the proposal by email after ICASSP.

#### §4 Report of the chair (Kristine Bell)

The chair reported about:

1. Membership. New position as “Past Chair” for one year. We have 33 members, but need to go down to 30. We have some problem with imbalance in membership. Large crew of Associate Members help reduce the ICASSP review load. Very good member participation in membership nominations, voting etc.
2. Workshops. See other items. Time to think about CAMSAP 2011 and SAM 2012!
3. ICASSP 09. Excellent review participation. No reminders necessary – thanks! Submissions down from 202 last year to 160. Many other TCs remained constant. Due to the venue? More defence-sponsored projects in SAM? Less Asian contributors to SAM? Acero points out that SAM’s “market share” of ICASSP has been very stable over the years. Jose Moura wants the TC to discuss its scope (see later). Much overlap with other TCs. Some SAM EDICs receive nearly no submissions.
4. Publications
5. Awards, Distinguished Lecturers, Fellows
6. SAM TC review on Friday
7. Documentation (Bylaws, Policies & Procedures). We will vote on Bylaws after ICASSP, and later on P&P.
8. Publicity/Outreach (website, SPS E-newsletter). New Website in place. Kristine has contributed to the SPS E-Newsletter – look at the April issue. The plan is to continue to contribute to this.
9. Collaboration. The “Thematic Symposia” are good examples of TC collaboration.

Raghu asks whether any of the members never show up at any ICASSP or Workshop. It is up to the Chair’s discretion to decide if a member should be resigned, and it has happened on one occasion recently.

#### §5 SAM TC Bylaws (Kristine Bell)

A draft was distributed with the agenda. No discussion necessary at this point.

#### §6 SAM’08 report (Alex Gershman, Abdelhak Zoubir)

Alex Gershman reported briefly from SAM’08. There were 187 submissions, which is less than Boston: 208, but still very good. A modest profit of 8000 Euros was made. The books are about to close.

#### §7 Discussion of SAM TC policies and procedures for nomination of SPS awards: experience with new procedure adopted in 2008, changes for 2009, etc.

The nomination procedure was changed during 2008. Unfortunately, the outcome was not very good, since no award nomination was accepted. Thoughts regarding the new

process? Alex thought a problem is that there was too much focus on the last year. Better consider a longer time span and let the sub-committees search for papers. Dominic stressed the importance of the quality of the statement. Kristine also mentioned that we put the voting number on the nominations, which might have undermined the success (unless it was unanimous). Alex informs that the society nomination was very tight, and it was more of a competition between topics.

In all, the division into subcommittees is good, but we need to re-think the procedure a bit. This will be addressed at the TC review on Friday.

**§8 Discussion of ICASSP and TSP EDICS and technical direction/topics of interest of the SAM TC**

A subcommittee will be formed that will discuss the SAM EDICS. Please, report your interest to Kristine ASAP!

**§9 The meeting was adjourned! The following agenda item was deferred to a forthcoming meeting, due to lack of time:**

Discussion of policies and procedures for nomination/election of new members: is our distribution of members demographically and by area of expertise in or out of balance and do we need/want to take this into consideration?