

IFIP TC14-Entertainment Computing

Minutes of the meeting held 17th September 2007, at Xujiahui District, Shanghai, China.

Author: Benjamin SALEM TC14 Secretary

Presents:

Officers:

Chair: Ryohei NAKATSU [RN]

Vice-Chair: Matthias RAUTERBERG [MR]

Secretary: Benjamin SALEM [BS]

National Representative:

Czechia: David OBDRZALEK [DO]

China: Gaoqi HE (proxy for Zhigeng PAN) [GH]

Hungary: Barnabas TAKACS [BT]

Korea: Hyun YANG [HY]

The Netherlands: Matthias RAUTERBERG [MR]

Japan: Ryohei NAKATSU [RN]

Working Group Chairs:

WG14.3: Matthias RAUTERBERG

WG14.7: Naoko TOSA [NT]

Guests:

Anton NIJHOLT (University of Twente, The Netherlands),

Lizhuang MA (Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China) [LM]

Stefan GRUNVOGEL (Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Germany)

Stephane NATKIN (Conservatoire National des Arts et metiers, France) [SN]

Rebecca LOMBARDI (Carnegie Mellon University, USA) [RL]

Charles PALMER (Carnegie Mellon University, USA) [CP]

Secretary's notes:

Because we had a last minute change of venue, there was significant time constraints as some of the meeting participants had to leave Shanghai. We had thereafter to slightly change the order of items during the meeting.

MINUTES:

1. Opening and welcoming address by the TC14 chair.
2. Approval of proposed agenda with note that item 4 and 5 are identical (secretary's error). Find below the edited version:

AGENDA FOR IFIP-TC14 MEETING

Date: Monday 17th September 2007 at 2.00PM

Venue: Shanghai Jiangong Junjiang Hotel, Shanghai, China,

Author: Benjamin SALEM (TC14 Secretary)

1. Opening and welcome note from TC14 chair
 2. Approval of this agenda
 3. Approval of last TC14 meeting minutes (15th June 2007, Salzburg, Austria).
Only for those present at that meeting
 4. General feedback from ICEC2007 organisers
 - a. Conference success
 - b. Financial outcome
 - c. Any useful suggestions
 5. Preparation of ICEC2008
 - a. Presentation and discussion with Charles Palmer
 - b. Proposed Connection with DIMEA08
 6. ICEC 2009
 - a. Proposed Connection with ACE
 7. Journal on Entertainment
 - a. Representative from Elsevier
 8. Some explanations of the Statutes & Bylaws
 - a. Requirements from WG
 - b. Financial Rules
 9. Working Groups Activities reports
 - a. Presented by each WG chairs or proxies
 - b. Financial status
 10. Financial status of TC 14
 - a. Budget proposal
 11. 10th Anniversary ICEC Conference in 2012
 12. Any Other Business
3. Approval of last TC14 meeting (15th June 2007, Salzburg, Austria)
minutes were approved with some addition regarding item 2 as proposed
by Matthias RAUTERBERG.
4. General Feedback from ICEC2007 organisers: Lizhuang MA reported on
the success of ICEC2007. There were 99 paper submitted, 87 reviewers.
25 papers and 23 short papers were accepted and 16 were accepted as
poster papers. Nadia THALMANN will accept 6 papers in the Computer
Animation and Virtual Worlds Journal. 5 papers will be published in the
International Journal of Virtual Reality. There were 81 full participants
and as a whole 105 attendees. Further statistics will be emailed to the
TC14 secretary.
Regarding the finances,
Total income was:
60 participants CNY198,000,
Microsoft Japan US\$5,000 (paid to TC14 chair)
Autodesk US\$2,000 (promised).
Total paid out was:
IFIP TC14 CNY20,000

IJVR publisher	CNY2,700/paper > CNY14,000
Conference Proceedings	CNY30,000
Balance so far	+CNY12,000

Final budget details will be emailed to the TC14 secretary.

LM suggested that having the conference proceedings in a LNCS series is a great added value. Proceedings should be in a special issue of a journal or a collection of journals (as suggested by MR).

Other general comments about the conference:

There is a need for more directions about the conference venue on the website.

DO noted that the information was provided quite late and not very clear. The registration process was difficult to understand. Also the deadline for paper submission should be before vacations.

5. Preparation for ICEC 2008: CP gave a short presentation about CMU hosting ICEC2008, including more background about the organisers. CP emphasised attempts to build links with other departments at CMU, notably robotics and arts. He also stated that they are looking for keynotes and other activities within ICEC outside the main stream. The conference should be a dual track 2.5 days, with evenings for social events.

Currently the proposed dates are 24, 25 and 26 September 2008. These dates need to be investigated for clash(es) with other event(s).

Further information: Transportation is very easy and there are many connecting flights from major airport hubs such as New York, Chicago, Washington and Philadelphia. We will recommend hotels with shuttle services to the airport, the conference will be held on campus, there will be 2 track rooms, a VIP room, a room for foods and an extra room for meetings. Website is being set up and we will have a meeting in Pittsburgh in approximately 6 months with the TC secretary.

5.b. MR: Did you contact DIMEA

CP: Yes they contacted us.

MR: What has been their reaction to money payment to IFIP?

RN: My opinion is that we don't have a link. To have one would be good, however ICEC is older and more established than DIMEA.

MR: What about organising ICEC during a week end, and what about time difference?

BT: I have some suggestions, ICEC is at a junction either we will grow or we will disappear. In order to grow, we must optimise on the Pittsburgh location. For example we should open a demonstration track in parallel to the main conference tracks, so as to attract non-scientific participation, like hobbyists and students and people with their 'toys'. This track will differentiate ICEC from other conferences.

CP: We were thinking about a competition between students

BT: Yes that could be a direction and that would help make ICEC larger.

RL: What do you mean by a larger event?

BT: You need to capitalise on the local geeks who want to demonstrate their cool stuff. CMU will be the ideal opportunity to do so in the area of entertainment. It's hard to tell who will participate. However we can be confident that the CMU location and the competition will raise the ICEC profile.

SN: Why not organise a student game competition. I think we can find a sponsor to give support and this will be relevant to all researchers on games.

BT: Yes it could be a competition event.

BS: Yes a competition and a demonstration of ideas.

RN: I think we can rely on CMU for the organisation, we should however keep the focus on a technical conference.

6. Journal on Entertainment:

MR: We have a proposal from Elsevier (US) for a journal on entertainment computing. The objective would be a 6 issues yearly journal. There should be a launch phase starting this year and we will have first year with 2 issues only. We could start with the ICEC submissions and we should as a TC prepare submissions for the journal

7. Working Group (WG) reports:

WG 14.5: Andy Sloane reported via email to secretary that his group organised a panel session during ACE2007 in Salzburg Austria.

WG 14.7 :NT described the proposed workshop on Art and Entertainment in Teragoya, Kyoto, Japan, on 11 November 2007. NT submitted a poster and the proposed workshop program. TC members were invited to attend the workshop.

8. Organisation of ICEC2009: There is a proposal to organise ICEC2009 in Athens in Greece. The initiative came from Adrian CHEOK. He was represented during this meeting by Stephane NATKIN. However it appeared that DIMEA2008 will be held in the same venue and with the same hosts. A clarification was required about who will be in charge of the organisation. After many discussions we have three proposals for ICEC 2009:

- 1- A joint event ICEC-ACE 2009 in Athens, proposed by Adrian CHEOK,
- 2- ICEC2009 in Paris, France, proposed by Stephane NATKIN,
- 3- ICEC2009 in Budapest, Hungary, proposed by Barnabas TAKACS.

Furthermore we have received the candidacy of KAIST for the organisation of ICEC 2010 in Korea, proposed by HY

9. Working Groups reports:

MR: More activities for each WG is necessary. Ideally the WG organise all the conferences, and the TC is focusing on strategy and long term issues relevant to our community. It is also important that the WG are more visible and accessible to outsiders from the TC. WG chairs should be encouraged to set up panels and workshops during ICEC conference.

10. Financial Status of TC14:

BS: We need to manage our budget. We could set up a mechanism for spending TC monies. I suggest we use some of the fund to support the TC secretary to help with organisation of ICEC conferences as this is our main income stream.

SN: We could use some of the money to set up a bursary for students.

TC14 has established itself, we should use the money to promote further the TC and ICEC conference. We could use the money to attract

submissions to ICEC which are not scientific such as fine, abstract art.
BT: Why not get sponsorship and co-finance the support of projects we find relevant to TC14. We could be a seed fund hat would help get more corporate sponsorship and further funding.

Secretary's note: We have received an email indicating that TC14 balance on 1st January 2007 is EUR 7,287.91.

11. 10th Anniversary ICEC Conference in 2012:

BS: I volunteer to organise ICEC 2012. I suggest to organise a big event for the 10th anniversary of our conference. To date I have been investigating the organisation of ICEC either in a temple in India or in a top venue in the United Arab Emirates, such as the Burdj Al-Arab hotel. The intention is to have a unique event in a unique venue with a unique program. I will carry on investigating and will report in due time my findings.

12. Any Other Business:

There was a proposal by Gaoqi HE to set up a WG on edutainment.

MR: Can you check if edutainment is not covered by the scope of other WG? You could try to join a WG with this scope rather than set up a new WG. You can propose a new WG but before you should make sure there is no overlap with existing WG.

GH: I think Zhigeng PAN will submit a proposal for a WG highlighting the differences with other WG.

MR: Our current focus should be on strengthening existing WG rather than create new ones.

DO: I have a presentation on eurobot, a robotic context I have been involved in over several years. It is for less advanced teams than Robocup and it started in France in 1994. Participants are between 14 and 30yrs old. It includes generally amateur robot designers with a small budget. I would like to have this event under WG14.2, and I have contacted the chair, but without reply so far.

MR: Please make sure you contact the chair again and get his involvement in endorsing the event as part of WG14.2. You could also get more involved in WG14.2.

13. Closing remarks by the TC14 vice-chair: Matthias RAUTERBERG

END OF MEETING.