

ICALP 2010

REPORT ON THE EATCS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010

The 2010 General Assembly (GA) of EATCS took place on Wednesday, July 7th, 2010, at the Bordeaux Cité Mondiale Hotel (France), venue of ICALP 2010. The President Burkhard Monien opened the GA at 18:10. The agenda consisted of the following items:

1. Report of the EATCS President
2. Report of the EATCS Treasurer
3. Report of the EATCS Secretary
4. Report on ICALP 2010, 2011, and 2012
5. Relationships with other Societies
6. Report on EU research matters
7. Miscellaneous

1 Report of the EATCS President

The President reported about the activities of EATCS in the period July 2009–June 2010 (see also the Annual Activity Report on the EATCS website). In particular, the President reported that the number of members slightly increased during the last year up to 858 and EATCS was able to attract two new sponsors: The Bertinoro International Center for Informatics (BiCi) which sponsors the new Presburger Award, and the Danish Center for Massive Data Algorithmics (madalgo) which sponsors the current EATCS activities. In this context and on behalf of EATCS the President expressed his gratitude to the Danish Center for Basic Research in Computer Science (BRICS) which was an EATCS sponsor for quite a long time, but has decided not to extend their sponsorship.

One of the major activities of EATCS is to promote research in theoretical computer science. EATCS attempts to stimulate scientific excellence by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative scientists. Especially, this is done by sponsoring the following scientific awards: The Gödel Prize, the EATCS Award, the Presburger Award, and the Dijkstra Prize. The Gödel Prize 2010 goes to Sanjeev Arora and Joseph S.B. Mitchell, the EATCS Award 2010 to Kurt Mehlhorn, the Presburger Award 2010 to Mikolaj Bojanczyk. All these awards

were presented in a ceremony that took place during ICALP 2010 in Bordeaux. The Dijkstra Prize 2010 goes to Tushar D. Chandra, Vassos Hadzilacos, and Sam Toueg and will be presented at the 2010 ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC). Moreover, EATCS was involved in various Best Paper Awards and Best Student Paper Awards at major conferences in theoretical computer science (ICALP, ETAPS, ESA, MFCS, EATCS-JP/LA).

During the last year, eleven major scientific events took place under the auspices of EATCS. With two conferences (ESA and MFCS) EATCS had an agreement on closer cooperation which implies among other things that these conferences apply our membership agreement. The annual main conference of EATCS since 1972 is the ICALP conference. In 2009, ICALP took place in Rhodes, in 2010 in Bordeaux, and in 2011, the ICALP conference will be organized by ETH in Zurich. The PC-chairs for 2011 will be Jiri Sgall (track A), Luca Aceto (track B), and Monika Henzinger (track C). EATCS is proud of the fact that for the first time in the ICALP history ICALP 2011 will have two female invited speakers (Catuscia Palamidessi and Eva Tardos). The decision about the venue for 2012 was already made last year and it has been agreed that due to the centennial of the birth of A. M. Turing in 2012, ICALP will be held in the UK, more precisely in Warwick and the general chair will be Artur Czumaj.

Moreover, the President reported that the ICALP 2010 Proceedings again have been published in the LNCS subline ARCoSS (Advanced Research in Computing and Software Science). Concerning the EATCS bulletin, he reported that since issue 101 the bulletin is fully electronically published using the Open Journal System. Furthermore, the President reported that in 2010 two more volumes have been printed by Springer in the EATCS series of Texts and Monographs. After this, the President reminded the assembly that the EATCS community has suffered a great loss in the last year. Amir Pnueli, who passed away on November 2, 2009, and Robin Milner, who died on March 20, 2010, were two of the most prominent members of the association and their loss is felt by all of us.

Subsequently, the President reported on the results of the various elections. He explained that following the EATCS statutes, every odd year, half of the members of the Council are elected for a term of four years by the members of EATCS, and every even year, the officials are elected for a term of two years by the Council of EATCS. Moreover, in even years, the Council has the right to nominate so called Appointed Council Members for a term of two years. After these preliminaries the President reminded that the electronic Council Election took place from September 7th until October 6th, 2009, and the new elected Council Members (for a term of four years, 2009-2013) are Luca Aceto, Susanne Albers, Leslie Ann Goldberg, Giuseppe F. Italiano, Christos Kaklamanis, Antonin Kucera, Catuscia Palamidessi, Giuseppe Persiano, Jean Eric Pin, and Thomas Wilke.

During his meeting at July 6th, 2010, the EATCS Council has unanimously

elected Burkhard Monien as EATCS President for the term 2010 until 2012. Moreover, the Council has unanimously elected Giorgio Ausiello, Don Sanella and Paul Spirakis as EATCS Vice-Presidents, Dirk Janssens as Treasurer and Maria Serna as Bulletin Editor, each for the term 2010 until 2012. Moreover, as Appointed Council Members for the period of two years the Council has unanimously elected Jan van Leeuwen and Vladimiro Sassone, whereas Mogens Nielsen decided not to stand for re-election to the EATCS Council.

The Council has also decided about the composition of the various EATCS Committees: The ICALP-EATCS Liaison Committee remains unchanged of Pino Italiano (chair), Luca Aceto and Juhani Karhumäki. The EATCS Publication Committee now consists of Luca Aceto (chair), Josep Diaz, Juhani Karhumäki, Catuscia Palamidessi, Vladimiro Sassone, Maria Serna, and Madhavan Mukund. The Award Committee 2011 remains unchanged of Jan van Leeuwen (chair), Volker Diekert, Jean-Pierre Jouannaud, David Peleg, Vladimiro Sassone, Andrzej Tarlecki, and Jiri Wiedermann. The selection committees for the awards always consist of three persons, where each year one of them leaves the committee on a regular cycle after a term of three years. Consequently, the EATCS Award Committee 2011 now consists of Paul Spirakis, Eugenio Moggi and Friedhelm Meyer auf der Heide, and the Presburger Award Committee 2011 now consists of Andrzej Tarlecki, Stefano Leonardi and Monika Henzinger. The Gödel Prize Committee 2011 now consists of Mike Paterson, Mogens Nielsen and Josep Diaz as EATCS representatives, and Sanjeev Arora, Cynthia Dwork and Eli Upfal as ACM SIGACT representatives.

Finally, the President summarized the results of the *Poll-on-Open-Access* which was run in spring 2010. Based on the results of this poll and a new offer to EATCS that Springer has announced, the Council will have to make a decision about further actions regarding the ICALP proceedings. The discussion culminates in the question whether EATCS should leave Springer's ARCOSS series to publish the ICALP proceedings in the open access outlet LIPIcs. The President reported that after a long and intensive discussion the Council has agreed to the following procedure: As soon as possible the President should contact Springer as well as LIPIcs to reach a final stage of negotiation. Afterwards, the Publications Committee will run again a poll among all EATCS members to get a final vote in which direction EATCS should go. Apart from this, the Proceedings of ICALP 2011 should be produced by Springer but following the *new* model.

2 Report of the EATCS Treasurer

Dirk Janssens gave a brief overview on financial matters. The financial situation of EATCS is solid. EATCS had some benefits deriving from the savings in the

mailing of the printed version of the Bulletin and from some new or renewed sponsorship. In this context, the President supplemented that besides the two new sponsors (BiCi and madalgo) also the sponsorship by Microsoft Research Cambridge has been renewed.

3 Report of the EATCS Secretary

The Secretary, Ioannis Chatzigiannakis, reported about the EATCS website re-launch. The page layout of the homepage was restructured to put more emphasis on the news section and banners were created to advertise the EATCS sponsored events. The structure of the other pages was also reorganized in order to reduce the height of the document tree. Moreover, the internal section was restructured to provide all the necessary information in a much simpler way, and the website of the Italian Chapter was transferred to EATCS Secretary Office facilities.

Following the discussion of the Council in the last years meeting, membership expiration reminders have been streamlined three times during the last year. In August 2009, December 2009 and April 2010, the Secretary and his team have queried the database and informed members about the expiration of their membership. This action should help to reduce the number of members that simply forget to renew their membership.

Moreover, an electronic voting system was integrated in the EATCS website and was used for the first time during the Election of ten new council members in fall 2009. A survey/poll system was integrated in the EATCS website to facilitate the *Poll-on-Open-Access* of the Publication Committee in spring 2010. A new category of members has been created in an attempt to approach young researchers by supporting and encouraging them to become members. Members of this new category have several privileges and access to a special information section called *Young researchers' area* on the website. The membership fee for this new category is only EUR 30 for a period of two years and at the registration page of ICALP 2010 it was the first time one can choose the option *Young Researcher*. Finally, the Secretary presented some website statistics and sketched out some ideas for the future.

4 Report on ICALP 2010, 2011, and 2012

At this point, the President invited ICALP 2010 organizer Claude Kirchner and the PC chairs being present (Paul Spirakis and Friedhelm Meyer auf der Heide) to give a brief summary of the state of the organization. Claude Kirchner reported that roughly 300 people have registered to ICALP 2010, 75 of them also

for the five satellite workshops. The conference budget will be nearly balanced. Paul Spirakis and Friedhelm Meyer auf der Heide reported on the work of the PC committees and presented some statistics on the corresponding tracks. The paper figures are as follows: Track A, Submitted 229, Accepted 60; Track B, Submitted 114, Accepted 30; Track C, Submitted 53, Accepted 16. The high quality of submitted papers shows that ICALP is strengthening its role as one of the world leading conferences in theoretical computer science.

Finally, on behalf of EATCS the President gave a warm thanks to all organizers in Bordeaux and their staff and to the three PC Chairs.

Michael Hoffmann from ETH Zurich gave an entertaining and amusing report on the location Zurich and the venue of the 38th ICALP conference at ETH. The organization is progressing well and the whole team in Zurich is looking forward to be a good host for ICALP 2011.

After this, Artur Czumaj from the University of Warwick gave a report on the organization and the venue for ICALP 2012. The 39th ICALP conference will take place at the University of Warwick from July 9 -13, 2012, and is embedded in the activities of the *Alan Turing Year - Centenary Celebration of the Life and Work of Alan Turing*. The organizers in Warwick are all eager to bring an excellent conference to the EATCS community.

5 Relationships with other Societies

The President reported about the initiative taken by the EU Commission to stimulate the creation of European Scientific and Professional Societies in the field of ICT capable to play a role similar to the role played by ACM and IEEE in the US. The first meeting has been held on November, 2008, the second should take place in Brussels on October, 2009, but it was cancelled because there were only very few interested parties willing to attend.

However, EATCS has very good relationships (and/or a personal overlap) with various organizations and committees (e.g. ACM SIGACT, ETAPS, ESA, MFCS, CiE, EACSL, EAPLS, EASST, Informatics Europe) and the President reported about various meetings with these organizations during the last year. For the future and as a next step forward, the President would like to create a common team from different organizations to influence the directions of the next EU research programmes.

Finally, the President reported that currently, the two EATCS Representatives in the ETAPS Steering Committee are Catuscia Palamidessi and Don Sanella, and the Council has unanimously agreed to renew their mandate.

6 EU research matters

At this time, the President invited Paul Spirakis to provide a brief account of recent developments regarding EU research. The same report will be posted in the EATCS website. The most important and encouraging point is the fact that the annual budget within the FET (Future and Emerging Technologies) initiative of the EU will increase by 20% in the period 2011 until 2013.

Moreover, the FET scheme as part of the ICT programme is in the process of setting up at least two research initiatives, so called FET flagships. FET flagships are envisioned to run for at least 10 years, on a budget of around up to 100 MÅ per year per initiative. As said before, EATCS will try to create a team from different organizations to influence the topics and directions of the FET flagships.

7 Miscellaneous

The President gave the floor to Manfred Kudlek who commented on the statistics of the authors who published repeatedly at ICALP and presented the special EATCS badge to those having reached 5 or more full papers at ICALP. According to the tradition, Manfred Kudlek also presented the EATCS badges to the Editors of the ICALP 2010 Proceedings.

One of the audience asked whether it is possible to create an EATCS funding program to support young researchers to participate at future ICALP conferences. The President promised that this idea is certainly one that EATCS want to consider, especially in view of the good financial situation of EATCS.

In conclusion, the President expressed his most sincere thanks to all those present for their contributions to the life of the Association and closed the 2010 General Assembly of EATCS at 20.00, Wednesday, July 7th.

Burkhard Monien