

# Foreword

The International Workshop on Spoken Language Translation (IWSLT) is a yearly scientific workshop, associated with an open evaluation campaign on spoken language translation, where both scientific papers and system descriptions are presented. The 7th International Workshop on Spoken Language Translation will take place in Paris, France, on 2-3 December 2010.

The IWSLT'2010 adventure started back at IWSLT'2009 in Tokyo, where my friend and partner Alex Waibel kindly announced at the social event that the workshop will be organized next year by IMMI in Paris. Everyone made a step backwards, and I found myself smiling to the audience and confirming that this hypothesis will be seriously considered.

One year later, we are completing this adventure and IWSLT'2010 can be foreseen as a big success, with more submitted and selected papers, more participants in the evaluation campaigns and more registered attendees than ever.

The IWSLT includes scientific papers in dedicated technical sessions, either in oral or poster form. The contributions cover theoretical and practical issues in the field of machine translation (MT), in general, and spoken language translation (SLT), including Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Text-to-Speech Synthesis (TTS) and MT, in particular:

- Speech and text MT
- Integration of ASR and MT
- MT and SLT approaches
- MT and SLT evaluation
- Language resources for MT and SLT
- Open source software for MT and SLT
- Pivot-language-based MT
- Adaptation in MT
- Simultaneous speech translation
- Efficiency in MT
- Stream-based algorithms for MT
- Multilingual ASR and TTS...

Submitted manuscripts were carefully peer-reviewed by three members of the program committee and papers were selected based on their technical merit and relevance to the conference. The high quality of submissions to this year's workshop enabled us to accept a total of 19 technical papers. The large number of submissions as well as the high quality of the submitted papers indicates the growth of Spoken Language Translation as a research field and the growing interest in these technologies and their practical applications.

The results of the spoken language translation evaluation campaigns organized in the framework of the workshop are also an important part of IWSLT. Those evaluations

are not organized for the sake of competition, but their goal is to foster cooperative work and scientific exchange. In this respect, IWSLT proposes challenging research tasks and an open experimental infrastructure for the scientific community working on spoken and written language translation. In addition to the former evaluation tasks (Spoken dialogues (DIALOG) in travel situations, between Chinese and English, and Traveling expressions (BTEC), from Arabic, Turkish, and French to English), the IWSLT evaluation campaigns offer this year a very challenging and appealing task on spoken language translation of Public speeches (TALK) in a variety of topics, from English to French. The goal of this year's new challenge is to establish reference baselines and appropriate evaluation protocols for future evaluations.

For each task, monolingual and bilingual language resources are provided to participants in order to train their translation systems, as well as sets of manual and automatic speech transcripts (with n-best and lattices) and reference translations, allowing researchers working only on written language translation to also participate. Moreover, blind test sets are released and all translation outputs produced by the participants are evaluated using several automatic translation quality metrics. Human assessment is being carried out for the translation of spoken dialogues and basic travel expressions.

Each participant in the evaluation campaign have been requested to submit a paper describing its MT system, the utilized resources, and its results using the provided test data, as well as contrastive run submissions using only the bilingual resources provided by IWSLT and investigations on the contribution of each utilized resource. A survey of the evaluation campaigns is presented by the organizers.

Apart from the technical content of the conference, the participants will benefit from a night cruise on the river Seine, which, we hope, will give them an unforgettable souvenir of Paris by night.

I would like to thank the IWSLT permanent Steering Committee, Marcello Federico (FBK-irst, Italy), Satoshi Nakamura (NICT, Japan) and Alex Waibel (CMU, USA / Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany), our sponsors, Quaero, ELRA and META-NET as well as FlaReNet and ISCA, which kindly gave us their endorsement, all the laboratories, institutes, agencies and programs which provided their contribution to the organization, and the president of the Maison de la Chimie foundation, Bernard Bigot, who warmly welcomed our conference.

I would also like to thank my co-chair, Alex Waibel, the co-chairs of the Evaluation Committee, Michael Paul (NICT, Japan) and Marcello Federico, with a special thank also to Sebastian Stüker (KIT, Germany), the co-chairs of the Program Committee, Ian Lane (CMU, USA) and François Yvon (LIMSI-CNRS/U. Paris Sud 11, France), and the chair of the local organizing committee, Martine Garnier-Rizet (IMMI), and its members, Lynn Barreteau (IMMI), Aurélien Max (LIMSI-CNRS/U. Paris Sud 11), and Guillaume Wisniewski (LIMSI-CNRS/U. Paris Sud 11).

Finally, I would like to warmly thank the 30 members of the Program Committee, coming from 13 countries, who made a wonderful work in the selection of the technical papers, and the four keynote speakers (Josep Bonet, from the EC/DGT, William Byrne, from Cambridge University (UK), Jan Hajič, from Charles University in Prague and Jean-Luc Gauvain, from LIMSI-CNRS, who kindly accepted to give an invited talk at the conference.

Welcome to Paris and enjoy!

*Joseph Mariani, General Chair IWSLT'2010*