

Message from the President of International Association for Machine Translation

The internet is linking the world together, leading to a flourishing exchange of information between communities using different languages. Not everyone, however, has a fluent command of multiple languages, and the “language barrier” is therefore becoming a major problem. In order to dismantle this language barrier, more accurate machine translation (MT) systems need to be created, and better methods for utilizing MT systems need to be established.

Let us consider the environment surrounding MT systems. In recent years, high-volume language resources have become available, and computing power has also risen dramatically, increasing the possibility of developing MT systems more suitable for practical use. MT systems are now being used in new ways: besides systems in the form of software packages to be installed and used on a computer, there are also systems in the form of translations services available on the web, and the number of MT users is increasing.

Translation functions as a bridge across the differences between languages. At this thirteenth machine translation summit (MT Summit XIII) held by the International Association for Machine Translation (IAMT), I, as the president of IAMT, would like to provide two more bridges. One of these bridges consists of our mission to support MT initiatives. As you know, since 1987, when the first MT Summit was held in Hakone, Japan, Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT), European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) and Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA) rotated in holding MT Summit in each region every two years, linking together MT initiatives in the world.

The second bridge I would like to provide will take the form of a forum facilitating interchange between people involved in MT in various capacities. Once developed, an MT system is meaningless unless it is used. The intellectual task of translation is accomplished by two parties: the system developer and the system user. By linking these two parties together, the IAMT aims to create an environment in which MT systems can actually be used in a wide range of applications.

Human beings carry out most of their intellectual activities, and most of their sensual processing, by means of language. The IAMT is committed to supporting the development and utilization of MT systems facilitating the exchange of information using language, which lies at the heart of all human activity. We shall continue to pursue initiatives aimed at conquering the language barrier, and your ongoing support for our activities will be greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to thank all steering committee members, program committee members and local organizing committee members for their intensive efforts toward making this summit successful.

President of International Association for Machine Translation
Hitoshi Isahara, Toyohashi University of Technology, Japan

Message from the Program Committee Chair

Welcome to the 13th Machine Translation Summit, MT Summit XIII, in Xiamen, China.

MT Summit XIII features a comprehensive program that includes research papers, reports on user experiences, a special session on patent translation, a keynote speech, invited talks, exhibits, tutorials, and a workshop. We define machine translation in the broadest possible sense to include not just fully automatic MT but also tools for translation support and multilingual text processing as well.

The MT Summit invited original submissions on all aspects of machine and machine-aided translation. To achieve a broad technical program, the submissions fall into one of three categories: research (or theoretical) papers, user studies (including manager's experiences), and system presentations (with optional demos).

We organized 57 program committee members selected from MT experts from all over the world, not only MT researchers but also MT developers and MT users. All submissions were reviewed under non-blind situations by at least three experts from the program committee members.

MT continues to grow, and we received 110 papers for this MT Summit: 90 research (or theoretical) papers, 14 user studies (including manager's experiences), and six system presentations (with optional demos). Among all the submissions, 73 papers were accepted: 62 research papers, six user studies, and five system presentations. We thank all the program committee members for their hard work to create such an attractive program.

We are delighted to have a keynote speaker, Professor Zhendong Dong, and two invited speakers, Dr. Mike Dillinger and Professor Hans Uszkoreit. We appreciate that they accepted our invitation and eagerly look forward to their invaluable talks.

We thank the speakers of the four tutorial sessions: Professor Dekai Wu, Mr. Mirko Plitt, Dr. Ventsislav Zhechev, Dr. Yanjun Ma, Dr. Yifan He, Professor Josef van Genabith, and Professor Alon Lavie.

Finally we extend our thanks to Professor Hitoshi Isahara and the steering committee members for their help and advice, Professor Le Sun, Professor Xiaodong Shi, Professor Qun Liu and the local organizing committee members for their work on the local arrangements, the website setup, and other works as the local organizing committee, Professor Shoichi Yokoyama and the organizing committee members of the workshop on patent translation for their work for the workshop and the special session, Mr. Hajime Tsukada for his help arranging the full program, and Mr. Yoshiaki Murakami for his help in preparing the proceeding's various documents.

We hope that all participants of the MT Summit XIII will enjoy the conference. We believe that your participation will benefit you and your organization as well as the entire MT community!

MT Summit Program Chair

Hiromi Nakaiwa, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, Japan

Program Committee Chair

Hiromi Nakaiwa

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