HUNDREDS OF CONSUMER ELECTRONICS PROFESSIONALS CONVERGE AT IEEE CCNC 2010 TO EXPLORE LATEST COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES AND SERVICES

Sponsored by IEEE Communications Society and held in conjunction with the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, the Annual IEEE Consumer Communications and Networking Conference (CCNC) once again established its status as the premier international venue dedicated to sharing the latest advances in consumer-centric communications applications and enabling technologies.

More than 350 leading industrial and academic researchers, industry professionals, and business executives, with the support of patrons, Samsung and Nokia, convened at Harrah's Las Vegas Casino & Hotel to attend approximately 300 technical talks, workshops, demonstrations, and keynotes that addressed a wide spectrum of topics such as peer-to-peer networking, social TV, video streaming, location-aware services, and intelligent vehicle communications.

On Saturday, January 9th, IEEE CCNC 2010 set the tone on the conference's first day with a full roster of workshops and panels exploring emerging applications that are designed to support "seamless connectivity among users, devices, and appliances anywhere, anytime, by anybody."

For instance, the International Workshop on Mobile IPv6 and Network-based Localized Mobility Management (MobiWorld 2010) focused on mobility management and the standards that are now driving the "Mobile Internet Age," while the International Workshop on Personalized Networks highlighted methods for increasing user mobility and overcoming bandwidth, protocol complexity, reliability, and dependability issues. In addition, the workshop titled "Social TV: The Next Wave" confronted the "fast changing interactive TV landscape" and its ongoing ability to integrate "cultural sharing and social awareness into the TV experience."

Saturday's technology panels also included researchers and scientists from MIT, Nokia, and Ericsson discussing "Social TV and Video Convergence: What Will Work and What Won't," as well as the delivery of "Any Video to Any Device: Getting the Network Ready."

On Sunday morning, the four-day event then began afresh with the plenary presentation of Dr. Henry Sinnreich of Adobe Systems, who discussed the "consumerization" of the Internet and the demand for rich Internet applications filled with voice and interaction. He also advised developers that they must realize that "simplicity will always win" since users never think about how services work.

After Dr. Sinnreich's presentation, IEEE CCNC 2010 launched the first of two days of technical seminars that included nearly 250 technical talks dedicated to topics ranging from wireless home communications to consumer network applications. In addition, a series of demonstration sessions highlighted "bleeding edge" research prototypes of consumer communications and networking technologies.

Among these demos were applications designed to enhance the communication capabilities of disabled individuals, improve personal communications, and enhance mobile and interactive social television. Demonstrations highlighted efforts to improve the emergency functions of smart phones and PDAs; effectively collect and manage information obtained from car black boxes; as well as a social TV that allows consumers from multiple locations to communicate by voice, video, and text, while watching the same programming.

Further elaborating on the theme of innovation and connectivity was the keynote address of John Paul Shen, head of the Nokia Research Center in Palo Alto, California, USA, who spoke at length on Monday morning about the "great convergence" between cell networks and Internet-connected devices. During his speech, Dr. Shen also talked glowingly about the rapid worldwide growth of the mobile phone industry, which is attracting approximately one million new subscribers daily.

According to Dr. Shen, we are also in the midst of a "Golden Age" for researchers that will spur "phenomenal growth over the next five to ten years" based on the continued collaboration between researchers in academia, the supplier community, and service providers. As for the outcome, Dr. Shen believes the end-user will become the true beneficiary of an ecosystem that focuses on "what users really want" and services that deliver seamless applications across various devices.

During the day, this theme was further elaborated with the presentation of several additional technical panels that highlighted "Ecological Home Networks" and "P2P for Networked Electronics." Each session then detailed several practical solutions for controlling home networks, intersecting social networking technologies, and solving environmental problems with IT.

Later that evening, Dr. I.P. Park, vice president and director of the Software Laboratory at the Future IT Research Center of SAIT, Samsung Electronics, presented his vision of "Consumer Electronics and the Future Web" during his address at the conference's banquet. "In the future, the web will be very dynamic, filled with real-time real-world data, and will provide seamless 'life services' to users," said Dr. Park. "I also believe consumer electronic devices will be major enablers of life services, and hence I would like to characterize the future web as the "CE-centric Life Web."

Also highlighting banquet activities was the presentation of the best paper and demonstration awards by Dr. Gary Chan, the IEEE CCNC 2010 technical program chair. Chosen for the Best Student Paper Award were Wojciech Galuba and Karl Aberer of EPFL in Switzerland, as well as Zoran Despotovic and Wolfgang Kellerer of DOCO-MO Communications Laboratories, Germany for their paper entitled "Leveraging Social Networks for Increased BitTorrent Robustness." Presented with the Best Paper Award for the paper entitled "Decentralized Q-learning for Aggregated Interference Control in Completely and Partially Observable Cognitive Radio" were Ana María Galindo and Lorenza Giupponi of the Centre Tecnològic de Telecomunicacions de Catalunya, Spain.

In addition, the Best Demonstration Awards were given to Pascal Urien of the Ecole Supérieure de Télécommunication in France for the demo entitled "An OpenID Provider based on SSL Smart Cards," as well as Mitsuo Okada, Yasuo Okabe, and Tetsutaro Uehara of Kyoto University in Japan for their demonstration highlighting "A Web-based Privacy-Secure Content Trading System for Small Content Providers using Semi-blind Digital Watermarking."

Looking toward the future, planning has already begun for IEEE CCNC 2011. Interested parties are urged to visit www.ieee-ccnc.org/2011 for Call for Paper details and additional conference information.