

Report on the 6th International Conference on Automation, Robotics and Applications, held in Queenstown, 17-19 February, 2015

The conference was held at Rydges Lakeland Resort, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu in Queenstown. There were about 120 delegates, attracted from around the world to hear the almost 100 presentations on latest research on all aspects of robotics and automation.

Excellent keynotes were delivered by Dr. Asad Madni and Prof. Thomas Braunl. Dr Madni spoke on the convergence of intelligent sensors, networks, nanotechnologies, and their application to smart highways, tele-health, smart grid, and other areas. Prof. Braunl traced the history of electric vehicles, through to modern developments in autonomous vehicles.



There were also three invited speakers: Prof. Elfed Lewis spoke on optical fibre sensors for X-ray dosimetry; Prof. Azizur Rahman spoke on optical sensors; and Dr. Mehran Sarkarati spoke on robotics in space, and some of the challenges of Mars robot missions.



Four special sessions, on "Mechatronic Music", "Electric Vehicles: Advances in Drives and Steering Mechanism", "Sensing, Automation and Robotics in Agriculture" and "Humans, software Agents, Robots, Machines and Sensors (HARMS)", showed some of the diverse range of applications.

There were plentiful opportunities for networking, catching up with colleagues, and meeting new ones.



One of the highlights was the conference banquet, held at the Skyline restaurant, with a gondola ride up the mountain. The views were excellent, the food was superb, and the dinner-time speeches were short!

It was my pleasure to be part of the team working on the organisation of this conference. Much of the credit goes to the General Chair, Gourab Sen Gupta, who did virtually all of the planning and logistics, including arranging the great weather. Others on the ground on the day were Ken Mercer (technical), and the student helpers, Aaron Dalbeth, Johann Nel, and Debraj Basu, who looked after registrations, photography, and generally ensured that things ran smoothly.

Donald Bailey
Technical co-chair

