REPORT ON THE EATCS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ICALP 2015, Kyoto, Tuesday, 7 July 2015

The 2015 General Assembly (GA) of the EATCS took place on Tuesday, 7 July 2015, in Kyoto (Japan), the venue of ICALP/LICS 2015. The President, Luca Aceto, opened the GA at 17:30. The agenda consisted of the following items:

- Report from the conference chair of ICALP 2015

- Report from the PC chairs of ICALP 2015

- Report on the organization of ICALP 2016

- Proposal for ICALP 2017

- Report on the EATCS Young Researcher Schools

- Report by the editor in chief of the Bulletin of the EATCS

- Reports from the treasurer and the secretary of the EATCS

- Nominations for the forthcoming EATCS Council elections 2015

- Report from the president on recent activities of the EATCS

- Any other business and Q&A with the audience

The slides used by the President at the GA are available at `http://icetcs.ru.is/SlidesGeneralAssembly2015.pdf`.

Before starting the GA, the President asked the attendees to honour the memory of Jiří Matoušek (1963–2015), a true giant of Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science who also happened to have strong ties with the Japanese TCS community. You can read a piece devoted to Jiří Matoušek and his connections to the Japanese research community at `http://bulletin.eatcs.org/index.php/beatcs/article/view/354/336`.

1 Report from the conference chair of ICALP 2015

On behalf of the ICALP 2015 organizing committee, Kazuo Iwama presented a summary of the state of the organization. He reported that a total of 438 people (excluding 11 invited speakers) registered for ICALP/LICS 2015, with a breakdown as follows: members 174, nonmembers 119, student members 63, student nonmembers 82. There was no distinction between ICALP and LICS participants. A total of 192 people registered for a workshop, of which 149 also registered for the main conference. Not surprisingly, there was a good participation from Japan. The number of participants who registered as nonmembers was rather surprising, given the substantial discount available to members.

The budget for the conference was in the order of 192,000 euros. We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support of the ERATO Kawarabayashi Large Graph Project, the project Exploring the Limits of Computation, the Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences (RIMS), Kyoto University, and the Tateisi Science and Technology Foundation.

The President thanked the local organizers for making the first ICALP held outside Europe such a great occasion. (This was also the first LICS that was held outside of the Western world, Europe and North America.)

2 Report from the PC chairs of ICALP 2015

The PC chairs for the three tracks of ICALP 2015 were Bettina Speckmann (Track A), Naoki Kobayashi (Track B) and Magnús M. Halldórsson (Track C).

Bettina Speckmann presented the report from the PC chairs on behalf of her colleagues. The 143 contributed papers for ICALP 2015 were divided into the three tracks of ICALP 2015 as follows:

- 89 papers for "Track A: Algorithms, Complexity and Games", which were selected from 328 submissions;

- 34 papers for "Track B: Logic, Semantics, Automata and Theory of Programming", which were selected from 114 submissions; and

- 20 papers for "Track C: Foundations of Networked Computation: Models, Algorithms and Information Management", which were selected from 65 submissions.

The slides used by Bettina during her presentation to the GA, which contain statistical information that might be of interest to some readers of this report, are available at

During her presentation, Bettina made a personal observation related to the lack of "applied papers" at ICALP and suggested that this might be a new candidate for a future Track C of the conference. This proposal was discussed a little, but did not get much support at the GA. However, the EATCS Council will keep this interesting suggestion in mind for the future.

On behalf of the EATCS and of our research community as a whole, the President thanks the PC chairs, their PCs and the sub-reviewers for doing an exceptional job.

3   Report on the organization of ICALP 2016

The annual main conference of the EATCS since 1972 is the ICALP conference. ICALP 2016 will be held from Tuesday, 12 July 2014, to Friday, 15 July 2016, in Rome, Italy. It will be a four-day ICALP and the general chairs for the conference are Tiziana Calamoneri, Irene Finocchi, Nicola Galesi and Daniele Gorla.

The program committee chairs for ICALP 2016 are Yuval Rabani (Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel) for Track A, Davide Sangiorgi (University of Bologna, Italy) for Track B and Michael Mitzenmacher (Harvard University, USA) for Track C.

The ICALP 2016 invited speakers are Subhash Khot (New York, USA), Marta Z. Kwiatkowska (Oxford, UK), Xavier Leroy (INRIA, France) and Devavrat Shah (MIT, USA).

During the GA, the President reported on the organization of ICALP 2016 on behalf of the conference chairs. The preliminary call for papers for the conference was made available during the GA. The conference web site is at `http://www.easyconferences.eu/icalp2016/`.

4   Proposal for ICALP 2017

Following the presentation of a bid to host ICALP delivered by Mikolaj Bojanczyk, the general assembly decided that ICALP 2017 will be held in Warsaw, Poland. The proposed dates are July 10–14, 2017. The local chairs will be Mikolaj Bojanczyk and Piotr Sankowski.

5 A look at the future of ICALP

Next the President had a discussion with the participants related to the future of ICALP. In particular, he asked the following questions to the attendees:

- Does ICALP cover TCS sufficiently broadly?

- What do you think of the current acceptance rates at ICALP?

- Would you like to see 20-minute presentation slots with 15 minutes for presenting the paper (possibly leading to more slots and the acceptance of more papers)?

- What would you like to see at ICALP that we don't do?

- Any criticisms/kudos/suggestions?

Based on the feedback we received from the audience in Kyoto, ICALP attendees seem to be fairly happy with the coverage of TCS the conference provides. They think that the current acceptance rates and the 25-minute presentation slots are fine.

We welcome feedback on any of the above points. The EATCS is here to serve the community (that is, you)!

6 Report on the EATCS Young Researcher Schools

Tony Kucera reported on the plans for current and future EATCS Young Researcher Schools. The Second EATCS Young Researcher School, Understanding Complexity and Concurrency through Topology of Data, will be held in the period 13—22 July 2015 in Camerino, Italy, organized by Emanuela Merelli. See `http://camerino2015.topdrim.eu/` for more details. Feel free to contact Tony if you have proposals for future schools.

7 Report by the editor in chief of the Bulletin of the EATCS

Next, Kazuo Iwama delivered his report as editor in chief of the Bulletin of the EATCS. The Bulletin is going well under Kazuo's energetic and expert editorship. However, we do not rest on our laurels and there is always room for improvement. At the GA, we asked the audience for their opinions on the following questions:

- What do you think of the current content of the BEATCS?

- What kind of regular columns would you like to see?

- What type of contributions shall we solicit?

If you have any criticisms/kudos/suggestions, please contact Kazuo and/or the President.

8 Reports from the treasurer and the secretary of the EATCS

The reports from the treasurer and the secretary of the EATCS reflected the good shape the EATCS is in these days. You can find full details in the EATCS Annual Report for the period July 2014–July 2015. The President thanked Ioannis Chatzigiannakis, Efi Chita and Dirk Janssens for the great work they do for the EATCS.

The General Assembly approved the move of the legal address of the EATCS from Antwerp to Université Libre de Bruxelles and gave Dirk Janssens, the treasurer of the EATCS, the authority to give Jean-Francois Raskin full access to the accounts of the EATCS. In so doing, the General Assembly approved the proposal prepared by the Council of the EATCS at its annual meeting. (See the report from the Council Meeting for furher information.)

9 Nominations for the forthcoming EATCS Council elections 2015

After the summer break, we will electing 10 new members to the Council of the EATCS. The list of nominees so far, organized by country, is as follows:

- Austria: Monika Henzinger

- Denmark/Sweden: Thore Husfeldt

- Finland: Jarkko Kari, Jukka Suomela

- France: Anca Muscholl

- Germany: Ulrich Meyer, Thomas Schwentick

- Hungary: Zoltan Ésik

- Iceland: Magnus Halldórsson

- Israel: Boaz Patt-Shamir

- Netherlands: Jos Baeten, Gerhard Woeginger

- Norway: Fedor Fomin

- Spain: Elvira Mayordomo

- Switzerland: Roger Wattenhofer

Note that only two of the 15 nominees are women.

The President reminded the audience that they are still on time to nominate colleagues for the election, which will start towards the end of August, by sending an email to the secretary office and to the President.

10 Report from the president on recent activities of the EATCS

Luca Aceto reported about the main activities of the EATCS in the period from July 2014 till June 2015. (See the Annual Activity Report on the EATCS website and the slides at `http://icetcs.ru.is/SlidesGeneralAssembly2015.pdf` for more details.) In particular, the President reported that the number of members slightly decreased during the last year and is down to 1067 (it was 1146 at this time last year). On the other hand, the number of young researchers who are members of the EATCS has increased, going from 396 last year to 575. This bodes well for the future of our association.

Concerning the sponsoring situation, the President reports that the EATCS is still in reasonably good shape. All the institutional sponsors (the Danish Center for Massive Data Algorithmics (MADALGO), the Greek Technology and Research Institute on Computers and Informatics (CTI) and the publishing house Springer) have honoured their commitments. However, with the move to LIPIcs for the publication of the proceedings of ICALP, the generous sponsorship we have received from Springer over many years will largely disappear. The President thanked Springer for the excellent cooperation the EATCS has had with that publishing house over many years.

During the GA, the President asked the following questions to the participants:

- What should the EATCS do for the TCS community?

- What activities should the EATCS support (financially or otherwise)?

- How can we make EATCS membership more attractive (especially among the younger generations)?

- In the short term, what do you want me to try and achieve in the second year of my second term as president of the EATCS?

We are genuinely interested in your opinions. You are the life and blood of the EATCS, and the EATCS is here to serve the community.

11 Miscellaneous

In conclusion, the President also expressed his most sincere thanks to all those present for their contributions and interest, and closed the 2015 General Assembly of the EATCS at 19:00, Tuesday, 7 July 2015.