



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF AUTOMATIC CONTROL

NEWSLETTER

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www.ifac-control.org

IFAC World Congress 2026 Update

IFAC World Congress 2026:

Welcome to Busan!

23-28 August 2026, Busan, Korea

A Welcome from the Organizing Committee

The global control community is gathering in Busan for the 23rd IFAC World Congress. Whether this issue reaches you before your departure or upon your arrival in Busan, welcome to BEXCO! This update reflects three years of preparation. Please note that this Update was prepared on July 15, 2026, and all information reflects the status as of that date. Please also note that if you missed the online registration, onsite registration is open throughout the Congress.

Remarkable Scale

The 2026 World Congress received more than 4,200 submissions from 90 countries. For the first time in World Congress history, a simultaneous journal submission option was offered, and 570 papers were submitted to 14 special issues across six IFAC journals. From these, more than 3,000 technical papers were accepted for presentation across 37 parallel tracks. By July 15, total registrations had passed 4,000 participants from more than 70 countries, making it the largest IFAC World Congress.

Note that, in this triennium, the World Congress submissions were based on a newly streamlined set of 520 keywords. Among these keywords, excluding control (177) and system (172), the most frequent words were modeling (32), AI (21), optimization (20), learning (19), distributed (19), and energy (19). Based on the submitted paper titles, the most frequent terms were learning (368), estimation (348), networks (275), and data (265). Among application areas, energy (260), robots (216), and vehicles (183) led the list. All these reflect how IFAC is driving and impacting innovation in the latest areas of scientific interest.

We thank all authors and participants for their enthusiasm, despite the unprecedented inflation in the recent three years as well as many other external difficulties. Please note that registration fees were nevertheless kept at the same level as recent Congresses. Furthermore, Banquet admission was included for all registration categories, including students and retirees.

The Congress also set another milestone for inclusion. Working with the IFAC Foundation and the Korean NOC, 93 young and underrepresented researchers were awarded DC-YAS and D&I support, and 90 of them had registered by July 15. In the past three Congresses, these programs supported an average of just over 30 researchers each; in Busan, the number nearly tripled. We hope this level of support becomes the norm for the Congresses to come.



The Week in Busan

The Congress program, as of July 15, was organized as follows.

- Saturday, August 22. The President's Dinner, honoring those who have served IFAC and the World Congress, including IFAC Fellows and the recipients of the IFAC Outstanding Service Award and the IFAC Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize (by invitation only).
- Sunday, August 23. 25 pre-Congress workshops during the day. The Opening Ceremony at 17:00 in the BEXCO Auditorium, featuring the presentation of the IFAC Major Awards and the appointment of IFAC Advisors, followed by the Welcome Reception, a film screening at the Busan Cinema Center, and a drone light show featuring 500 drones creating images inspired by the concepts and symbols of control theory across the night sky.
- Monday to Friday. Technical sessions from 08:30 to 18:30 in 37 parallel tracks. 5 plenary lectures, 6 semi-plenary lectures, 3 back-to-basics tutorials, 9 special-topic tutorials, 12 exciting forums, and more than 3,000 technical papers. Also 3 live competitions (the RoboRacer Grand Prix, the IFAC Wearable Robot Challenge, and the Minidrone Competition) with more than 200 participants from around the world.

No.4

August 2026

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The IFAC Journals

- Automatica**
journals.elsevier.com/automatica
- Control Engineering Practice**
journals.elsevier.com/control-engineering-practice
- Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence**
journals.elsevier.com/engineering-applications-of-artificial-intelligence
- Journal of Process Control**
journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-process-control
- Annual Reviews in Control**
journals.elsevier.com/annual-reviews-in-control
- Journal on Mechatronics**
journals.elsevier.com/mechatronics
- Nonlinear Analysis: Hybrid Systems**
journals.elsevier.com/nonlinear-analysis-hybrid-systems
- IFAC Journal of Systems & Control**
journals.elsevier.com/ifac-journal-of-systems-and-control
- IFAC-PapersOnLine**
journals.elsevier.com/ifac-papersonline

• Monday. The IFAC General Assembly, the Federation's highest governing body, at 13:10 in the Summit Hall. The "TB Evolution" Forum, reviewing how IFAC's technical activities have transformed over the past two decades and where they are headed next. In the evening at 19:30, the Public Lecture by Prof. Ken Goldberg (UC Berkeley), *"Physical Intelligence: AI and Robots in Our Future,"* open to the Busan community.

• Tuesday. A timely IFAC Academic Forum entitled *"The Tension Between Control and AI."*

• Wednesday. The Kwon Special Session and Kwon Award Lecture, honoring a lasting legacy in our field.

• Thursday. The D&I Forum and the D&I Award presentation, the Activity Fund Forum, and the Education Forum. In the evening, the Congress Banquet in Exhibition Hall 1 (see below).

• Friday. The Closing Ceremony in the Auditorium, with the IFAC Journal Awards, the World Congress Paper Prizes, and a performance by the IFAC Control Orchestra under Yoonhak Baek, an electrical and computer engineering graduate of Seoul National University, now Professor of Music at Yeungnam University and conductor of the Seoul Festa Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Organizing Committee also prepared programs for the next generation. KJ-RoboLab, a joint program with Japan, introduced elementary school children, with a special focus on young girls, to simple robot programming, while IFAC Young Robot Explorers offered robot demonstrations and a first introduction to robotics for children from underserved communities.

The official IFAC Conference app, which will provide the full program, is still in preparation; please download it closer to the Congress by searching for "IFAC" in your app store.

The Banquet

Just as BTS recently incorporated *"Arirang,"* the song that embodies the soul of Korea, into their latest album, the Congress dinner show was designed to begin with Korea's classical heritage and journey through a wide range of musical genres, culminating in the K-pop phenomenon that has captivated audiences around the world.

Due to catering limitations, banquet attendance was capped at 2,800 guests, and after three rounds of invitations, the RSVP closed on July 3 with the seats full. The overwhelming enthusiasm caught us by surprise, and we are grateful for it. If your plans change and you cannot attend the Banquet, please return your ticket at the registration desk. For registrants without a Banquet RSVP, some seats may still be available on site, so please check at the desk.

Getting Around and Enjoying Busan

BEXCO is located in the Centum City area of Busan, and the BEXCO Auditorium is next to Centum City station on Metro Line 2. From Busan (Gimhae) International Airport, Airport Limousine No. 1 takes you to BEXCO. From Busan Station the venue is reachable by Metro; the high-speed train from Seoul reaches Busan Station in about 2.5 hours. Taxis can be hailed on the street, and since many regular taxis in Korea also operate through Uber, they can be called with the Uber app. Right across the street from BEXCO is the famous Shinsegae Centum City, recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's largest department store, with a large food court, restaurants, a spa, and many other amenities under one roof. In the evenings, you can visit Haeundae and Gwangalli beaches, which are three Metro stops from Centum City station, in opposite directions. Busan offers much more to explore; please check the Congress website for tour ideas. For participants with families, onsite childcare operates at BEXCO throughout the week; details are on the Congress homepage.

Closing the Feedback Loop in Busan

Eighteen years after the World Congress in Seoul, IFAC returned to Korea in style, and the loop will close in a few days. Our theme, "Feedback in Busan," was more than a motto: it celebrated the return itself, the discipline of feedback control at the heart of our community, the interaction between academia and industry that drives our field forward, and the feedback between control and AI that we now witness in Physical AI. We have prepared everything for a rewarding week of science, connection, and celebration.

Welcome to Busan! We hope you leave with excellent feedback on your work and with many good memories.

Dongil "Dan" Cho, IFAC President
Hyungbo Shim, IFAC 2026 General Chair
Hyo-Sung Ahn, IFAC 2026 IPC Co-Chair
Hyoun Jin Kim, IFAC 2026 IPC Co-Chair

From the IFAC President

Dear IFAC Friends & Colleagues,

How Have We Done?

In my first message as President, in August 2023, I wrote, "Please join us in Busan three years from now, to see how we have done and to celebrate together." Three years have passed, and this is my final message as your President. It seems appropriate to look back at what we set out to do and what has been accomplished.

I believe three themes characterize this triennium: modernization of IFAC's technical structure, broader participation and inclusion, and stronger scholarly activities.

Modernizing IFAC's Technical Structure

At the beginning of the triennium, we noticed that the structure had remained essentially unchanged since 2002, although the field had changed greatly. For example, the enormous growth in computing has reshaped both the theory and practice of control.

Six Presidential Task Forces, working with the Technical Board and the Executive Officers, examined IFAC from multiple perspectives: technical areas and future directions, the two-year versus three-year cycle, societal harmony, societal challenges including industry involvement, and the process for creating and revising awards. Their findings have been reported through this Newsletter series, and their recommendations have been put into practice.

The Technical Board also conducted intensive discussions across all Coordinating Committees and Technical Committees. Approximately 950 keywords that had accumulated over decades were streamlined and redesigned into a focused set of 520 modernized keywords, which were used for submissions to the 2026 World Congress. A new Coordinating Committee, CC10 on Power and Energy Systems, was created by dividing TC 6.3 into three TCs, increasing the total number of Technical Committees from 39 to 41.

Broadening Participation and Inclusion

TC Senior Members were introduced as a new recognition tier. TC rosters for the next triennium were formed before the World Congress, rather than several months afterward, enabling the new TCs to begin their work without delay.

The Associated Member Organization status now connects colleagues from countries without NMOs, while more than 7,000 Affiliates are active on the IFAC portal free of charge. The Distinguished Lecturer Program has brought lectures to communities around the world, and joint conferences are reducing both costs and travel requirements.

Working with the IFAC Foundation and the Korean NOC, 93 young and underrepresented researchers were awarded DC-YAS and

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instagram.com/ifac_control/

LinkedIn

linkedin.com/company/international-federation-of-automatic-control/

X

x.com/IFAC_Control

Bluesky

bsky.app/profile/ifac-control.bsky.social

YouTube

www.youtube.com/@ifacyoutube3132

D&I support, and 90 have registered for this Congress so far. During the previous three Congresses, these programs supported an average of just over 30 researchers per Congress. In Busan, that number has nearly tripled. I hope this level of support becomes the norm for future Congresses. Inclusion has mattered to me throughout my term, for our field is at its strongest when its doors are open to all.

Strengthening Scholarly Activities

The Technical Board approved a total of 106 IFAC conferences during this triennium, a meaningful increase in IFAC's conference activities. These conferences were organized by 35 NMOs across 38 countries and regions.

Under the leadership of the Publications Board and working with Elsevier, IFAC's journals also became measurably stronger during the past three years. IFAC has eight journals, and the number ranked in Q1 of the Journal Citation Reports increased from three in the 2022 edition to five in the 2025 edition.

For the first time in World Congress history, a simultaneous journal submission option was offered in Busan, and 570 papers were submitted to 14 special issues across six IFAC journals. This long-discussed idea was finally put into practice, and we will share our experience so that future implementations, from submission to review, can be made smoother for authors and editors alike.

Through the efforts of Operations and Finance, IFAC invested more in the global community than in any previous triennium, supporting activities through the IFAC Activity Fund and introducing new digital services, some still ongoing. Despite this spending, IFAC's financial position remains stronger than ever.

The Busan World Congress

The results of these three years of work are now on display in Busan. We received more than 4,200 submissions from 90 countries. As of July 15, more than 4,000 participants from over 70 countries have registered, making the 2026 Congress the largest IFAC World Congress.

At the Closing Ceremony, I will hand over the presidency to Maria Prandini, who will lead IFAC through 2026-2029. She has my full confidence and support.

Closing the Triennium

None of these achievements was the work of one person. I thank the Executive Officers, Council Members, and members of the three Boards, six Executive Committees, and six Task Forces, who gave so much of their time. I also thank the Secretariat in Laxenburg - Katharina Willixhofer, Elske Haberl, and Harald Albrecht - who kept everything running, as well as the NMOs and the thousands of volunteers who have always been the backbone of IFAC.

I am deeply grateful to the Korean organizing team, consisting of more than 50 colleagues led by General Chair Hyungbo Shim and IPC Co-Chairs Hyo-Sung Ahn and Hyoun Jin Kim. For them and for me, this Congress has been an eight-year journey, beginning with the bid presentation in Florianópolis in 2018, followed by the final selection in Vienna in 2019, and culminating this week in Busan.

The Congress would not have been possible without the generous support of the Busan Metropolitan City, the Korea Tourism Organization, the Busan Tourism Organization, the Korea Institute for Robot Industry Advancement, and the IFAC NMO, ICROS. I am also grateful for the financial support of dozens of companies in Korea and abroad.

Serving as your President has been the honor of my career.

So, how have we done? In feedback control, performance is judged by the output. The judgment therefore belongs to you. I look forward to hearing your assessments in Busan and beyond, and I trust that they will provide valuable input for IFAC's next triennium.

Sincerely,

Dongil "Dan" Cho
IFAC President, 2023-2026

IFAC Distinguished Lecturer Report Bruno Siciliano & Hideaki Ishii ASCC 2026 19 June 2026 Bali, ID

Bruno Siciliano and Hideaki visited Bali Island, Indonesia, as IFAC Distinguished Lecturers and delivered their plenary talks at the 15th Asian Control Conference (ASCC 2026), both on June 19, 2026.

This conference seeks to unite the Asian scientific community dedicated to automatic control and related disciplines and is organized by the Asian Control Association (ACA). This edition attracted more than 470 participants from 41 countries.



Bruno Siciliano

About 440 papers were presented in seven parallel tracks, and the program was enriched by six plenary talks by renowned experts in the field. The Grand Hyatt Bali was a perfect venue for this event.

Bruno gave his plenary talk entitled "*Robot Manipulation and Control*." During his talk, he presented the main research achievements by his team at the PRISMA Lab during the last few years. The talk consisted of four parts and its abstract reads as follows: In the first part, control techniques for dynamic nonprehensile manipulation are presented. The second part of the talk focuses on how to merge learning and model-based strategies to provide autonomy to robot manipulation. In the third part, several aerial robotics applications for inspection and maintenance are surveyed. The fourth part of the talk deals with recent advances on shared control including haptic guidance.

Immediately after, Bruno's talk, it was Hideaki's turn to deliver his plenary entitled "*Resiliency in Multi-Agent Consensus under Adversarial Attacks*." This talk provided an overview on the recent research on multi-agent systems operating in hostile environments and its abstract is as follows:

In the context of consensus problems, we focus on the influence of misbehaving agents capable to inject false data in their transmissions and how to mitigate such cyber attacks by the approach of the so-called mean subsequence reduced algorithms and their variants. We will see that characterizations on the properties necessary for network topologies can be established, and moreover that network resiliency can be enhanced when more communication and computational resources are available. This approach originates in the area of distributed algorithms in computer science, but recent studies in systems control have brought notable advances.



Hideaki Ishii

Both speakers particularly enjoyed the questions and answers session after their talks. The discussions continued during the coffee break, especially with several PhD students who have learned their research in robotics and control from their textbooks and papers.

They were delighted to be at the ASCC as they could catch up with many Asian colleagues working in the areas of robotics and control. Both Bruno and Hideaki would like to thank IFAC and the Distinguished Lecturer Program for providing them this wonderful opportunity.

Report and photos submitted by: Hideaki Ishii (JP) & Bruno Siciliano (IT), IFAC Distinguished Lecturers

Editor's Note: More information about the IFAC Distinguished Lecture Committee, chaired by Hideaki Ishii from 2023-2026, is available at: ifac-control.org/areas/ifac-distinguished-lecturer-program

IFAC Activity Fund Report: Developing children's tridimensional ordinality through control systems and robots

The project “*Developing children's tridimensional ordinality through control systems and robots*” introduced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts to primary school students through two interactive activities: a Robot Maze Challenge and an Electronic Number Line. These activities aimed to foster numeracy skills, reduce math anxiety, and spark early interest in control theory and robotics. Implemented at Castleknock National School and Maynooth University's Open Day, the project engaged over 450 participants and showed increased enthusiasm for STEM. Extensions included a PID control demonstrator for engineering students and two conference publications, highlighting the initiative's success in promoting playful, evidence-based STEM education.

Project Leader: Dr Erivelton Nepomuceno, Maynooth University, Ireland; erivelton.nepomuceno@mu.ie

IFAC Sponsor: Irish NMO

Interest in mathematics is strongly associated with the pursuit of STEM careers. For this reason, many platforms and programs were created to stimulate mathematics education in secondary schools. In contrast, primary schools, where more basic mathematical concepts are taught, do not receive the same level of attention. To address this gap, the project aims to introduce these activities to primary school students, drawing attention to mathematical concepts and control aspects to a younger demographic.

On this gap, two basic objectives were established for the project: to foster numeracy skills by strengthening visuospatial and arithmetical abilities, and to promote STEM engagement in earlier stages of education. The first objective aimed at reducing mathematical anxiety (MA) in children, while the second aimed at using robots as a means to present basic control concepts and attract students for interactive activities. By addressing these objectives, the project aimed to develop evidence-based interventions that educators could use to support students' learning and confidence in math, while also enhancing community awareness of the importance of control engineering in every-

day life.

To accomplish these objectives, a multidisciplinary team was formed. Dr Ariadne Bertolin, with a background in control theory; Matheus Costa, with experience in electronics and embedded systems; Dr Flávia Santos, as the research expert in math cognition; and MSc Samuel Roberts, a contributor from the department of Psychology of UCD, to aid with the proper execution of the activities.

To help develop the children's mathematical literacy, an electronic tool mimicking a number line was conceptualised and built. The device was developed with elements of psychology research in math cognition with the help of Dr Flávia H. Santos and MSc. Samuel C. Roberts. The electronic number line was made interactive by modifying the device's behaviour in response to user inputs on buttons and knobs, which the children would use to answer different questions in the activity.

A set of humanoid robots was also used to formulate a different activity in which students would be tasked to guide robots in a maze challenge. The students would provide guidance through voice commands, aiming to reach a specific objective-point. Boundaries were created in the maze using simple classroom materials to define the areas the robot should be guided by and to limit the set of commands that should be used.

After the conceptualisation and development phases, the two innovative activities were refined to develop and foster numeracy skills and cultivate positive attitudes toward math while introducing children to the foundational concepts of control theory and robotics. These activities were designed to align with the project's objectives. Activity 1) the Robot Maze Challenge “The Robot Saves the World”. This activity introduced students to control theory through a space-themed maze where they guided a humanoid robot using voice commands. The engaging narrative emphasised feedback systems, precise communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. And activity 2) Interactive Number Line Activity: A hands-on exercise designed to improve visuospatial and arithmetic skills. In 2) the students were invited to a two-part exercise using the digital number line spanning from 0 to 100. In part a) the student would estimate the locations of randomly defined integer numbers shown in a screen. After moving the knob of a linear potentiometer to the desired position, a button should be pressed to confirm the answer. In the second half of the activity, b) the student would be shown two integer numbers, and the new task would be to define the position of the two different numbers once again using the sliding potentiometer. Each time the student confirmed their answers, a log was registered in the laptop connected to the electronic number line for posterior analysis.

The first round of activities was carried out in Castleknock National School with 4th and 5th grade students on 12 November 2024. Approximately 58 students took part in the robot maze and number line activities. Students used

voice commands to navigate a robot through a maze, fostering their understanding of feedback systems and control theory. The number line activity helped develop numerical reasoning through a hands-on interface that provided real-time feedback. With the electronic number line, 4th and 5th year students logged 30 and 126 answers, respectively.

Pre and post-activity surveys were applied to help measure the impact of the activities on students' attitudes toward math and STEM. Results indicated a significant increase in enthusiasm, confidence, and interest in STEM concepts, supporting the effectiveness of the



The second round of activities was carried out in Maynooth University Open Day event on the 15th of November 2024 as part of Maynooth University's annual celebration of scientific innovation. This timing allowed the project to engage a broader audience and maximise community involvement. A wider audience, including children, families, and educators, experienced the project during this community science event. The project activities were presented at this annual event, engaging children, families, and educators. The robot maze and number line exercises were showcased as interactive exhibits, highlighting the practical applications of mathematics, control systems, and robotics. The event promoted STEM education to a broad demographic, reinforcing the importance of early engagement in STEM concepts and encouraging families to support such initiatives. Given the large number of visitors and the vast demographic at the event, 408 entries were logged in the electronic number line activity.

As an extension of the proposal for the project, a secondary activity was proposed for a more mature demographic. The concepts of the electronic number line were expanded to create an electronic demonstrator kit for PID control algorithms. The kit's objective was to enable second-year electronic engineering students to apply the concepts demonstrated in lectures in a practical setting. The kit demonstrated PID concepts in a DC motor position control system. Users were invited to experiment with controller gains with interactive knobs to investigate the difference in the dynamic response of the system in closed-loop conditions.

Two conference papers were published with the results obtained from this project. The development and data analysis of the electronic number line activities were published in Maynooth University EDI in Practice in High-

er Education Conference (EQUITAS) in June 2025. The electronic PID control position control plant was published in the Irish Signals and Systems Conference (ISSC) 2025.

In conclusion, this project successfully combined innovative STEM activities with targeted engagement strategies to foster numeracy skills, reduce math anxiety, and introduce children to control theory and robotics. The collaboration of engineers (Dr. Ariadne L. J. Bertolin and Matheus Mulherchen Golz Costa) and psychologists (Dr. Flávia H. Santos and Samuel Roberts) ensured a well-rounded approach, blending technical accuracy with psychological insights.

Through outreach at Castleknock School and participation in Maynooth Science Night 2024, the project demonstrated the effectiveness of interactive and playful learning experiences in making STEM concepts accessible and enjoyable. The pre- and post-survey results highlighted the activities' potential for broader implementation, making a strong case for integrating such interventions into primary education curricula.

These efforts underscore the project's commitment to inspiring the next generation of problem-solvers and critical thinkers, fostering a lasting interest in STEM fields while building essential numeracy skills.

Editor's Note: The IFAC Activity Fund Committee 2023-2026 is chaired by Tariq Samad. More information about the Activity Fund Committee and supported activities can be found at: ifac-control.org/areas/activity-fund

IFAC Workshop on Blockchain Intelligence and Knowledge Automation (BIKA 2025) 8-9 November 2025 Macau, CN

The 2025 IFAC Workshop on Blockchain Intelligence and Knowledge Automation (BIKA 2025) was held on November 8-9, in Macau, China. This workshop was sponsored by the IFAC Technical Committee 9.1 (Economic, Business, and Financial Systems) as well as TC 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4 within Coordinating Committee 9 (Social Systems), and co-sponsored by the Association of Global Intelligent Science and Technology (AGIST) and iPoloGo. It was organized by the Chinese Association of Automation (CAA), and hosted by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), with support from related technical committees of IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (IEEE SMC Society), CAA, and the Chinese Academy of Management (CAM).

BIKA 2025 focused on advancing both theoretical frontiers and practical implementations across key domains, such as blockchain-AI integration, decentralized knowledge management, decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), smart contracts, and intelligent knowledge automation.

The workshop received 34 submissions from 63 authors. 14 high-quality submissions were selected to form the final technical program. Among these, 12 regular papers were accepted for inclusion in the proceedings, complemented by 2 extended abstracts for discussion at the workshop. The technical program was structured around 3 regular sessions: "DAOs and Intelligent Web 3.0", "Blockchain Intelligence and Its Applications", and "Knowledge Automation in Blockchain Systems".

The program was further enriched by four outstanding keynote speeches, delivered by Paul Werbos from the University of Southern California (USA), Professor Ying (Gina) Tang from Rowan University (USA), Professor Hequan Sun from Xi'an Jiaotong University (China), and Professor Bai Li from East China Normal University (China). Their presentations provided a broad and insightful overview of the state-of-the-art in blockchain and AI, and stimulate valuable reflection and discussion among attendees from both academic and industrial sectors.

BIKA 2025's core strengths lie in its precise alignment with cutting-edge technical trends and IFAC's professional positioning, successfully establishing a high-quality academic exchange framework. Technically, by focusing on core interdisciplinary topics at the intersection of blockchain and knowledge automation and setting up structured thematic tracks, it maintained in-depth discussions while addressing key industry technical pain points. Socially, the conference connected academia and industry; leveraging IFAC's brand credibility and standardized agenda design, it enhanced the trustworthiness of cross-sector collaboration. Additionally, it provided a platform for young scholars to showcase their work.

The IFAC Story E-book
is available!

ISBN 978-3-902823-73-1

ifac-control.org/about/the-ifac-story

The IFAC Council and Related Meetings 2026 will take place in conjunction with the 2026 IFAC World Congress in Busan, KR in August 2026.

The schedule is constantly updated and is available at:

ifac-control.org/news/meeting-schedule-busan-korea

IFAC Cartoon Archive
is available!

ifac-control.org/publications/cartoons

IFAC Foundation Awards

One of the aims of the IFAC Foundation is to promote the awareness and dissemination of the social relevance of automatic control. The IFAC Foundation recognizes at each IFAC World Congress the contributions of individuals or a group of individuals who through their work have shown how automatic control science and technology can contribute to significant advances in the broad area of "sustainable development". This includes work on the topics of renewable and clean energy, management of energy, water and resources in general, control in agriculture, pollution control, climate control, and related topics.

IFAC Foundation Kwon Award

Purpose and Funding

The IFAC Foundation Kwon Award is made in honour of Professor Wook Hyun Kwon whose initial donation fostered the creation of the IFAC Foundation. It is awarded for a paper published in one of the IFAC Journals (ifac-control.org/publications/journals), and it is fully funded by the IFAC Foundation.

The winner (or winning team) receives a certificate and cash prize of 2000 euro (total). Moreover, the awardee(s) are recognized appropriately during the IFAC World Congress at which the award is given.

Selection Committee Chair: PooGyeon Park (KR). Selection Committee members: Manuel Berenguel (ES), Hong Chen (CN), Florian Dörfler (CH), Andries Engelbrecht (ZA), Iven Mareels (AU), and Tariq Samad (US)

Award

Title of the paper: A Systems Perspective on Promoting Sustainable Food Systems

Authors: Angela Fontan, Patricia Eustachio Colombo, Rosemary Green, Karl H. Johansson

Annual Reviews in Control, Volume 60, 2025, 101020,
doi.org/10.1016/j.arcontrol.2025.101020

IFAC Foundation Diversity & Inclusion Award

Purpose and Funding

One of the aims of the IFAC Foundation is to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the global automatic control community. The IFAC Foundation recognizes at each IFAC World Congress the contributions of individuals or groups of individuals who have advanced diversity and inclusion within IFAC's scientific, technical, and organizational activities. This includes, for example, initiatives that have fostered broader participation in IFAC conferences and events, strengthened diversity within IFAC's technical committees, publications, or

National Member Organizations, or have led to lasting structural or cultural changes that promote inclusivity in the automatic control community.

The IFAC Foundation Diversity and Inclusion Award is funded by Elsevier.

The winner (or winning team) receives a certificate and cash prize of 2000 euro (total). Moreover, the awardee(s) are recognized appropriately during the IFAC World Congress at which the award is given.

Award

Team name: Girls in Control

Citation: *For creating and applying globally accessible resources to foster control understanding and appreciation from a young age, and for inspiring and supporting girls and underserved communities across the world.*

Team leaders: Steffi Knorn, Damiano Varagnolo, Roxanne Jackson, Keiko Shimizu

Selection Committee Chair: Lidia Auret (ZA). Selection Committee members: Hye-Kyung Cho (KR), Grace Deaecto (BR), Mary Doyle-Kent (IE), Richard Murray (US), and Patricia N. Pena (BR)

Editor's Notes:

More information about Girls in Control can be found at: ifac-control.org/areas/girls-in-control-gic-workshop-and-material

The IFAC Foundation is a separate entity from the International Federation of Automatic Control. Information about the Foundation can be found at: foundation.ifac-control.org.

IFAC Foundation Chair: Frank Allgöwer

Winner information provided by: Julian Berberich (DE), IFAC Foundation Secretary

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We encourage electronic distribution of this Newsletter, as well as reprinting in national and local automatic control periodicals.

Acknowledgement to IFAC would be appreciated.

IFAC Affiliates Statistics

At the date of July 13, 2026, the IFAC database contains 7793 approved affiliates. In total IFAC has affiliates in 113 countries/regions, 45 of which have a National Member Organization (NMO) and 5 have an Associate Member Organization (AMO). As expected, most affiliates (7217) are from countries/regions in which IFAC has a National Member Organization (NMO), 134 affiliates are from countries/regions with an Associate Member Organization (AMO).

On August 24, at the World Congress in Busan, the NMOs will gather at the triennial General Assembly. At this occasion the affiliates statistics focus on these countries. In the following table the countries/regions are named after their international ISO 3-letter code.

The column #Aff gives the number of approved Affiliate entries in the database. Note that affiliation is approved by Secretariat that checks the relevance of the affiliation to avoid trivially erroneous requests of irrelevant intrusions. It also avoids duplicate affiliations.

The column #Con gives the number of affiliates that have connected to the current database Portal affiliates.ifac-control.org. The difference between #Aff and #Con indicates the number of people who were in the former database which was active until 2023, who did not connect to the new Portal, and who were not removed from the database. Such people are typically long-standing affiliates who have occupied some role in the IFAC structure. Profiles of former affiliates with no roles have been erased.

The column #Roles gives the number of affiliates that have or have had roles in the IFAC structure. These roles range from being a TC member to more involved volunteer work such as being member of a Board, of and Executive Committee, or being Council member. The higher this value is, the more this NMO has contributions to the IFAC activities.

The last column #Pub gives the number of profiles that can be consulted when connected to the affiliate's portal. IFAC cherishes individual choice concerning privacy of date. Affiliates can choose which of their data is public and which is not. The higher this #Pub value is, the more people from this NMO show willingness to participate to IFAC activities.

To illustrate how this table can be interpreted, take the row for Korean Republic (KOR), the host country of the 2026 World Congress. The number of affiliates is 277, which is high in comparison to other NMOs, given the size

of the country. The number of connected affiliates is 245 which shows that most affiliates are active colleagues. Only 32 affiliate profiles are in the database for historical reasons prior to 2023. 84 affiliates have or have had a role in IFAC. Subtracting the 32 historical ones, 52 are active affiliates with roles. It most probably approximately maps to the 55 people who have made their profile at least partly public. There is room for encouraging the 190 connected people with private profiles to be more visible.

ISO	#Aff	#Con	#Roles	#Pub
AUS	130	92	72	23
AUT	107	69	62	28
AZE	8	2	7	1
BEL	76	65	31	19
BGR	62	23	56	10
BRA	208	172	86	69
CAN	153	121	74	29
CHE	83	71	32	16
CHL	38	32	12	10
CHN	940	798	242	199
CZE	55	34	31	10
DEU	467	394	160	98
DNK	52	40	18	14
ESP	223	197	87	77
EST	11	7	8	5
FIN	50	38	27	12
FRA	699	559	368	223
GBR	275	211	126	49
HRV	23	16	12	3
HUN	61	34	49	16
IND	182	153	30	51
IRL	52	27	35	10
ISR	31	25	18	6
ITA	429	364	206	124
JPN	399	290	195	68
KOR	277	245	84	55
MEX	102	91	26	21
MKD	5	2	4	2
NLD	239	210	100	67
NOR	83	79	27	16
PER	12	10	4	2
POL	111	84	55	37
PRT	96	85	43	41
ROU	127	86	79	39
RUS	81	49	50	15
SGP	23	18	9	2
SVK	38	30	20	14
SVN	24	18	15	8
SWE	130	115	41	32
TUN	22	15	14	7
TUR	173	141	64	44
UKR	7	5	2	1
USA	797	626	348	149
XKX	14	3	12	1
ZAF	42	34	18	15

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 **Federal Ministry
Innovation, Mobility
and Infrastructure
Republic of Austria**

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

Title	2026	Place	Further Information
23 rd IFAC World Congress WC 2026	August 23– 28	Busan Republic of Korea	ifac2026.org ifac2026@ifac2026.org
17 th APCA International Conference on Automatic Control and Soft Computing CONTROLO 2026	September 9 – 11	Coimbra Portuga	controlo2026.apca.pt/ controlo2026@apca.pt
67 th SIMS/IFAC International Conference of Scandinavian Simulation Society SIMS 2026	September 16 – 17	Eskilstuna Sweden	scansims.org/events.php?sid=41&src=db1557571001&udpview=show-event
6 th AACC/IFAC Conference on Modeling, Estimation and Control MECC 2026	October 25 – 28	Phoenix, AZ USA	mecc2026.a2c2.org/
23 rd INSTICC et al. International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics ICINCO 2026	October 26 – 29	Angers France	icinco.scitevents.org/ icinco.secretariat@insticc.org
20 th INSTICC et al. International Workshop on Enterprise Integration, Interoperability and Networking EI2N 2026	October 29 – 30	Angers France	in4pl.scitevents.org/Workshops.aspx#EI2N
7 th INSTICC et al. International Conference on Innovative Intelligent Industrial Production and Logistics IN4PL 2026	October 29 – 30	Angers France	in4pl.scitevents.org/
9 th ACDOS/IFAC Conference on Advances in Control and Optimization of Dynamical Systems ACODS 2026	November 18 – 21	Warangal India	
6 th IFAC Workshop on Cyber-Physical Human Systems CPHS 2026	December 11 – 12	Redondo Beach, CA USA	cphs2026.org/
Title	2027	Place	Further Information
17 th IFAC Workshop on Intelligent Manufacturing Systems IMS 2027	April 7 – 9	Seville Spain	
7 th IFAC Workshop on Advanced Maintenance Engineering, Services and Technologies AMEST 2027	April 7 – 9	Seville Spain	
19 th IFAC Conference on Programmable Devices and Embedded Systems PDES 2027	May 19 – 21	Ostrava Czech Republic	
8 th IFAC Conference on Analysis and Control of Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos ACNDC 2027	June 9 – 11	Monte Porzio Catone (Rome) Italy	conferences.ifac-control.org/acndc2027/

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

13 th IFAC Symposium on Control of Power and Energy Systems CPES 2027	June 10 – 12	Cluj-Napoca Romania	
20 th IFAC Workshop on Time Delay Systems TDS 2027	June 27 – 30	Napoli Italy	
19 th IFAC Symposium on Information, Control and Optimisation in Manufacturing INCOM 2027	June 28 – 30	Nantes France	hub.imt-atlantique.fr/incom2027/
13 th IFAC Symposium on Fault Detection, Supervision and Safety for Technical Processes SAFEPROCESS 2027	June/July 29 – 02	Delft Netherlands	conferences.ifac-control.org/safeprocess2027/
AACC, IFAC, et al. Conference on American Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	July 5 – 9	Philadelphia, PA USA	acc2027.a2c2.org/
21 st IFAC Symposium on System Identification - Learning models for decision and control SYSID 2027	July 7 – 9	Lyon France	conferences.ifac-control.org/sysid2027/ sysid2027@services.cnrs.fr
EUCA/IFAC Conference on European Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC) ECC 2027	July 12 – 16	Brussels Belgium	ecc27.euca-ecc.org/
9 th IFAC Conference on Analysis and Design of Hybrid Systems ADHS 2027	July 21 – 23	L'Aquila Italy	
12 th IFAC Symposium on Robust Control Design ROCOND 2027	July 28 – 30	Fortaleza Brazil	
7 th IFAC Workshop on Linear Parameter Varying Systems LPVS 2027	July 28 – 30	Fortaleza Brazil	
14 th IFAC Conference on Fractional Differentiation and its Applications ICFDA 2027	August 23 – 26	Delft Netherlands	conferences.ifac-control.org/icfda2027/
5 th IFAC Conference on Modelling, Identification and Control of Nonlinear Systems MICNON 2027	September 6 – 10	Eindhoven Netherlands	
4 th SACAC/IFAC Conference on Control Conference Africa CCA 2027	September 7 – 8	Pretoria South Africa	
17 th IFAC Conference on Control Applications in Marine Systems, Robotics, and Vehicles CAMS 2027	October 4 – 7	Šibenik Croatia	