

Message from IFAC President Maria Prandini

Delivered at the Closing Ceremony of the 23rd IFAC World Congress in Busan,
Republic of Korea

Dear IFAC Colleagues and Friends,

As we come to the end of this World Congress in Busan, I would first like to say thank you. Thank you to the organizers, the volunteers, and all who have worked so hard to make this Congress such a memorable event. And thank you to all of you for being here, for sharing your work and your ideas, and for making this world congress such a vibrant scientific event and, above all, such a wonderful opportunity to engage in scientific discussions and to connect with our colleagues and friends.

Standing here today as the new President of IFAC is a great honour but also a great responsibility. I am deeply grateful for the trust that the IFAC community has placed in me, and I look forward to serving our Federation over the next three years. I would also like to thank my predecessors in the past triennia - Frank Allgöwer, Hajime Asama, and Dan Cho - and the Executive Officers with whom I have had the privilege of working, for their dedication and service to IFAC.

Receiving the gavel today from Dan Cho is a powerful reminder that IFAC is built on continuity. Each of us contributes for a period of time, but the strength of our Federation comes from the continuous commitment of generations of volunteers who contribute their time, expertise, and energy in so many different capacities. As we begin this new chapter, I look forward to continuing to support this community and, together with all of you, to making IFAC even stronger.

We are living in a rapidly changing world. Artificial Intelligence is an important part of this transformation, bringing tremendous opportunities, but also new challenges and responsibilities. IFAC has an important contribution to make. We can bring our distinctive expertise in systems and control to AI - control for AI - helping to make AI-based systems safer, more reliable, and more trustworthy. At the same time, we must engage with the broader implications of AI, including its ethical challenges and its impact on the quality and integrity of scientific research and publications.

More broadly, systems and control have much to contribute to the major challenges facing society, from sustainability and cybersecurity to mobility and healthcare. We should connect

our expertise more effectively, strengthen collaboration across our technical areas, reach out to other communities, and engage more closely with industry. We should also continue building a more inclusive IFAC. During the past triennium, we have seen, for example, encouraging growth in the participation of women at different levels of the Federation. This is important progress, but inclusivity goes beyond gender.



IFAC already has valuable initiatives supporting developing countries, including the Distinguished Lecturer Program, the Associated Member Organization initiative, and the IFAC Foundation's support for young authors from developing countries (DC-YAS).

We should build on these efforts and continue making our conferences more sustainable and inclusive, while preserving something fundamental to our community: scientific exchange and personal, face-to-face interaction.

And, of course, the future of IFAC depends on the younger generation. We should not only invite young researchers and engineers to attend. We should give them opportunities to contribute, to take responsibility, and to help shape the future of IFAC.

Finally, if we want our field to have greater impact, we must communicate its contributions more effectively - not only within our scientific community, but also to society, industry, policymakers, and funding bodies. None of these ambitions can be achieved without the engagement of our community: IFAC is its community, and its future is something we will shape together. I look forward to serving you all over the next three years and to meeting again at our next World Congress in Amsterdam in 2029.

And if you have any ideas or concerns, I would be pleased to hear from you. Thank you very much for your attention.

Maria Prandini (IT), IFAC President 2026-2029

No.5

October 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

Introducing New IFAC Secretary Derik le Roux

Twelve years and counting in the IFAC Family!

I am Derik le Roux, the new IFAC Secretary and Editor-in Chief of the *IFAC Newsletter*. I am a proud, born-and-bred South African, a husband, and a father of three children. "Typical" of many South Africans, I am a sports enthusiast, believe my barbecue skills are exceptional, and enjoy spending time outdoors with friends and family. I am a Professor in the Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering at the University of Pretoria (ZA) where I serve as the head of the Control Systems Research group.



My story with IFAC began in about 2013 when my postgraduate supervisor, the IFAC President at that time, Ian Craig, "volunteered" me to assist with a task force on rebuilding the IFAC website. This was an amazing opportunity for me as a PhD student where I had the privilege to work under the incredible leadership of Frank Doyle. I had little notion that this introduction into IFAC would have a snowball effect.

I became a member of the Publication Committee in 2017 (which later became the Publication Board). At the IFAC Council meetings in 2019 in Vienna, I was asked by the then Policy Committee Chair, Lucy Pao, to lead a team to improve the IFAC database. This led to the development of the IFAC Affiliates Portal alongside Dimitri Peaucelle, a service which now stands central to many of IFAC's activities and continues to be refined. Shortly after, I was approached by Dan Cho who asked if I would be willing to serve as the Technical Board member responsible for Social Media for the 2023-2026 triennium where he would serve as President. And finally in 2025, I was happily flummoxed when Maria Prandini, the current President, asked me to serve as the Secretary during her triennium.

Looking back at my history with IFAC, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities afforded me by the many generous IFAC officials serving our community. The mentorship, connections, and interactions had a profound impact on my personal and professional life. The selfless service I've observed from the many volunteers in IFAC serves as a great motivation in my role going forward.

What about the future? My focus in the next three years is to consolidate the many digital services currently used by IFAC, e.g., the Portal, the conference website hosting service, the conference app, the website, the social media channels, and email services. This is all part of the process to ensure our community continues to thrive.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge the previous Secretary, Dimitri Peaucelle. I think few understand the incredible work he has done over the past six years, especially given that he took over the role during the Covid19 pandemic. Fortunately, and excitingly, he will continue to serve IFAC in the next triennium, but this time as the IFAC President-Elect.

If you have read this stodgy essay this far, and you want to know more about how to serve in IFAC, my recommendation is to attend the yearly IFAC Council meetings. I've attended these meetings since 2014 and there is always opportunity to serve and contribute. (Few people realize that these are open meetings free to be attended by any IFAC Affiliate.)

Derik le Roux (ZA), IFAC Secretary 2026-29

IFAC Harold Chestnut Textbook Prize Award Winner 2026

This award is presented at each Triennial Congress for the best Control Engineering textbook for which the first edition(s) occurred not later than the Congress just prior to the one at which the award is presented. It recognizes the author(s) of the textbook(s) judged to have most contributed to the education of control engineers. The candidates for the prize are nominated by a selection committee, while the books under consideration come before the committee through recommendation of the control engineering community. The prize consists of a monetary prize and a certificate. This prize was created in 1986 and renamed in 2002. The prize is named after Harold Chestnut, IFAC's first president.

**The winner of this award in 2026 is
Francesco Bullo**

Francesco Bullo (US) received the Laurea degree from the University of Padova, Italy, in 1994, and the Ph.D. degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1999. From 1998 to 2004, he was an Assistant Professor with the Coordinated Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since 2004 he has been at University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is Distinguished Professor and Mosher Endowed Chair.

His current research interests include modeling, dynamics and control of multi-agent network systems, contraction theory, oscillatory and neural dynamics, and mathematical neuroscience. Previous work includes contributions to geometric control, Lagrangian systems, vehicle routing, motion planning, robotic coordi-

nation, power systems, distributed computing, and social networks.

Francesco Bullo has published more than 350 papers in international journals, books, and refereed conferences. Beside "Lectures on Network Systems", he is the coauthor, with Andrew D. Lewis, of "Geometric Control of Mechanical Systems" (Springer, 2004, 0-387-22195-6); with Jorge Cortés and Sonia Martínez, of "Distributed Control of Robotic Networks" (Princeton, 2009, 978-0-691-14195-4); and of "Contraction Theory for Dynamical Systems," (Kindle Direct Publishing, 2026, v1.3, 979-8836646806).



Francesco Bullo is a Fellow of ASME, IEEE, IFAC, NetSci, and SIAM. He served as President of the IEEE Control Systems Society in 2018 and as Chair of the SIAM Activity Group on Control and Systems Theory for 2020-2021. He served on the editorial boards of *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, *ESAIM: Control, Optimization, and the Calculus of Variations*, *SIAM Journal of Control and Optimization*, and *Mathematics of Control, Signals, and Systems*.

**IFAC Cartoon Archive
is available!**

ifac-control.org/publications/cartoons

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appreciated.**

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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

IFAC Control Advent Calendar: Coming Soon!

**“Count down to Christmas
with control!”**



Santa's workshop has plenty of control problems - and this December we shall help him and the elves solve them! The Control Advent Calendar 2026 will bring a daily Christmas-themed multiple-choice challenge to students, educators, and control enthusiasts. So, are you teaching a control course? Please consider sharing the calendar with your students, trying a question together in class, or encouraging them to compare answers with their classmates. Check the details at <https://control-advent.com/>, for festive challenges & occasions to help Santa while revisiting concepts, explaining choices, and enjoying control theory together!

Questions? Please contact IFAC Education Activities Chair Damiano Varagnolo damiano.varagnolo@ntnu.no or Steffi Knorn knorn@tu-berlin.de.

Editor's Note: The IFAC Control Advent Calendar is an initiative of the IFAC Education Activities Committee. The Education Activities Committee shall facilitate educational and outreach activities at IFAC Conferences, across the IFAC Technical Committees, and other IFAC activities.

IFAC World Congress 2029 Preview 8-13 July 2029 Amsterdam, NL

The IFAC World Congress 2029 will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from 8 to 13 July 2029. Held every three years, the IFAC World Congress is the flagship event of IFAC and brings together researchers, engineers, students, industrial experts and practitioners from all areas of automatic control.

Following the successful IFAC World Congress 2026 in Busan, the Dutch systems and control community is honoured and excited to host the next edition in Amsterdam. The Netherlands has a long and active tradition within IFAC and is one of IFAC's founding member countries. The Dutch National Member Organization of IFAC is DISC, the Dutch Institute for Systems and Control, which brings together systems and control groups from multiple Dutch universities and plays an important role in coordinating research, doctoral education, knowledge exchange and connections with industry.

The motto of IFAC World Congress 2029 is “A sustainable IFAC World Congress in a data-rich interconnected world.” This motto reflects both the scientific direction of our field and the broader responsibility of the international control community. Automatic control is increasingly connected to data, networks, learning, autonomy and complex socio-technical systems, while deeply rooted in rigorous theory, modelling, analysis, design and real-world applications. As these systems grow in scale and complexity, the control community carries a responsibility to ensure they serve society in a sustainable and equitable fashion. The Congress will aim to promote strong interaction between fundamental developments and relevant applications, and to help shape the future of the field in close dialogue with academia, industry and society.



The Congress will take place at RAI Amsterdam, one of the major international conference venues in the Netherlands. RAI Amsterdam offers modern, comfortable, sustainable and multifunctional spaces that are well suited for a large international congress. The venue is very well connected: It has its own metro station and is only a 10 min public transport ride away from both Amsterdam Central Station and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. Participants will be able to easily reach the venue by train, metro, tram, bicycle (highly recommended), boat or foot.

Amsterdam is a historic, open and internationally connected city, known for its canals, museums, universities, cultural life, and strong innovation ecosystem. It is also an excellent gateway to the wider Dutch high-tech landscape, including control engineering, robotics, semiconductors, energy systems, mobility, maritime technology, agri-food technology and digital infrastructure. We hope that IFAC 2029 will provide many opportunities for participants to experience both the scientific strength and the cultural richness of the Netherlands.



The preparations for IFAC World Congress 2029 have now begun. During the Closing Ceremony of IFAC 2026 in Busan, the transition to Amsterdam 2029 was introduced with the support of a large Dutch delegation and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Korea. Over the coming years, the organizing team will continue

to develop the scientific programme, industrial engagement, outreach activities and social programme, while learning carefully from previous IFAC World Congresses.

We warmly invite all IFAC participants, Technical Committees, National Member Organizations, industrial partners and friends of the control community to contribute ideas and suggestions for Amsterdam 2029. Let us build together a sustainable, inclusive and inspiring World Congress for the whole IFAC community. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Amsterdam!

For further information, please visit ifac2029.org or contact info@IFAC2029.org.

Submitted by: Ming Cao and Manuel Mazo, IFAC World Congress 2029 General Co-Chairs, and Mauro Salazar and Valentina Breschi, Publicity Co-Chairs.

IFAC World Congress 2026 Report 23-28 August 2026 Busan, KR The Loop Closed

The 23rd IFAC World Congress was held at BEXCO in Busan, Korea, from August 23 to 28, 2026. Busan was chosen at the 2019 Council Meeting in Vienna and approved at the virtual General Assembly of the Berlin Congress in 2020. The Institute of Control, Robotics and Systems (ICROS), the Korean National Member Organization (NMO) of IFAC, hosted the Congress. It was the second World Congress in Korea, eighteen years after Seoul 2008. In all, 4,640 participants from 74 countries and regions registered.



Ogomu, the traditional five-drum dance, at the Opening Ceremony

The theme of the Congress was **“Feedback in Busan.”** It reflected the return of the World Congress to Korea, the role of feedback in control, the exchange between academia and industry, and the growing interaction between control and artificial intelligence. With the Congress over, the loop is closed. This article reports the feedback from Busan, using real data.

Facts and Figures

The Congress drew 4,640 registrations from 74 countries and regions, the highest recorded for a World Congress. The previous high was 3,757 at Toulouse 2017, counted on the same basis. Seoul 2008 had 2,741 registrations. Of

the total, 3,942 registered for the technical program. The other 698 included competition participants, staff and volunteers, accompanying persons, exhibitors, and children in the onsite childcare program. Tables 1 and 2 list the ten largest delegations and sources of paper submissions.

Table 1. Top ten countries and regions by registrations

Country or region	Registrations
Korea	1,133
China	976
Germany	274
France	253
Japan	231
United States	207
Italy	160
Netherlands	149
United Kingdom	116
Sweden	103

Table 2. Top ten countries and regions by paper submissions (by the corresponding author)

Country or region	Submitted	Accepted
China	943	734
France	308	254
Germany	263	231
United States	224	178
Korea	222	175
Italy	193	167
Japan	188	153
Netherlands	138	125
United Kingdom	125	96
India	97	58

The Congress received 4,231 submissions and accepted 3,275, an overall acceptance rate of 77.40%. Paper submissions totaled 3,980, and 3,081 were accepted and presented in 495 technical sessions across 37 parallel tracks. The review was managed by 48 editors with 716 associate-editor assignments, and 11,839 reviews were returned. The program also included 5 plenary and 6 semi-plenary lectures, 3 Back-to-Basics tutorials, 9 tutorials, 21 pre-Congress workshops, 3 competitions, 2 benchmark challenges, and an exhibition by 19 organizations.

The withdrawal rate between acceptance and final submission was 0.71%, the lowest of the four most recent Congresses, against 2.71% in 2017, 4.92% in 2020, and 5.69% in 2023. Of the 3,980 papers, 3,733 were research papers, of which 2,857 were accepted. Of these, 262 were also accepted by the IFAC journals. Among the 262 papers, 258 appear only in the journals, and four appear in both, because the journal versions diverged substantially from the Congress versions during long review cycles. In total, 2,596 papers are published in IFAC-PapersOnLine (PoL). The remaining 247 papers were tutorial, dissemination, late-breaking, and other contributions outside the PoL scope, and 224 of them (90.7%) were accepted. Together, these make up the 3,081 accepted from the pool of 3,980 paper submissions.

By Coordinating Committee (Table 3), acceptance ranged from 70.2% in CC4 Mechatronics, Robotics and Components to 89.2% in CC8 Bio- and Ecological Systems, and reached 92.2% in the New Topics areas.

Table 3. Submissions and acceptances by Coordinating Committee CC (Coordinating Committee)

	Submitted	Accepted	Accept ratio
CC1	742	563	75.9%
CC2	724	536	74.0%
CC3	134	98	73.1%
CC4	372	261	70.2%
CC5	216	178	82.4%
CC6	494	382	77.3%
CC7	513	373	72.7%
CC8	203	181	89.2%
CC9	289	238	82.4%
NT (New Topics)	64	59	92.2%

By paper type (Table 4), invited session papers had the highest acceptance rate among the larger types (84.6%), followed by open invited track papers (82.8%). Regular papers with the journal option had a lower rate (64.5%), because the journals rejected 90 of them before the Congress review. Of the 480 that reached the joint review, 367 (76.5%) were accepted, similar to the regular paper rate.

Table 4. Research papers for IFAC-PapersOnLine and the journal option Paper type-Submitted-Accepted-Rejected-Accept ratio

Regular paper	1,951	1,480	471	75.86%
Regular survey paper	19	13	6	68.42%
Regular paper with journal option	564	364	200	64.54%
Regular survey paper with journal option	6	3	3	50.00%
Invited session paper	337	285	52	84.57%
Invited session survey paper	4	4	0	100.00%
Open invited track paper	827	685	142	82.83%
Open invited track survey paper	10	9	1	90.00%
Demonstration paper	9	9	0	100.00%
Tutorial session paper	3	2	1	66.67%
Tutorial session survey paper	3	3	0	100.00%
Sub-total	3,733	2,857	876	76.53%

There were 251 session and event proposals, and 194 (77.3%) were accepted. All journal option proposals, Back-to-Basics tutorials, forums, competitions, and Young Author Prize

nominations were accepted. Open invited track proposals had an acceptance rate of 71.6% (78 of 109), and invited session proposals had a rate of 73.4% (47 of 64).

Technical Program Highlights

Busan was the first Congress to classify its submissions under the revised list of 520 keywords, consolidated from about 950. This made it possible to compare the keywords authors chose with the words in their paper titles. "Learning" appeared in 9.5% of titles but in 3.5% of keywords. "Estimation" and "observer" appeared in 9.0% of titles and 2.6% of keywords. "Data-driven" and "data-based" appeared in 3.7% of titles and 1.3% of keywords. These data will inform the next revision of the IFAC technical structure.

Two initiatives were introduced. Under the Journal Option, tried for the first time at a Congress, 570 manuscripts were submitted simultaneously to the Congress and to 14 special issues of six IFAC journals. Three New Topics areas, Quantum Systems and Control, GenAI/LLMs for Robotics and Control, and Fully Actuated System Control, opened a route for papers outside the Technical Committee areas. They drew 64 submissions and accepted 59.

Five plenary lectures opened each day from Monday to Friday, and six semi-plenary lectures were given in the late afternoon from Monday to Thursday. The speakers were selected from nominations made mostly by NMOs and officials, considering the geographical distribution of NMOs, coverage of the Technical Committee areas, and diversity, including gender and age. The eleven speakers came from institutions in nine countries across Asia and Oceania, Europe, and the Americas, and four of them were women.

The Plenary Lectures were:

- **Alessandro Astolfi** (KAUST, Saudi Arabia; formerly Imperial College London, UK), *Non-linear Optimal Control and Filtering beyond the HJB Equation*
- **Ken Goldberg** (UC Berkeley, USA), *Good Old Fashioned Engineering Can Close the 100,000 Year "Data Gap" in Robotics*
- **Lei Guo** (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), *Learning and Adaptation in Uncertain Dynamical Systems: Theory, Algorithms, and Challenges*
- **Maurice Heemels** (Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands), *From Event-Triggered to Neuromorphic Control: A System-Theoretic Perspective*
- **Frank C. Park** (Seoul National University, Korea), *Manipulation: Integrating Control, Learning, Geometry and Mechanics*

The semi-plenary lectures were:

- **Laura Albert** (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA), *Smarter Decisions for a Better World*
- **Alessandro Chiuso** (Università di Padova,

Italy), **Data, Prediction, and Control**

• **Ulrike Krewer** (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany), **Understanding and Improving Electrosynthesis Processes and Battery Safety**

• **Sonia Martinez** (UC San Diego, USA), **Coverage Control Across Scales: Data-Driven Solutions, Dynamic Scenarios, and Optimal Transport**

• **Ying Tan** (The University of Melbourne, Australia), **Model-Guided Extremum Seeking Control: Principles and Applications**

• **Lihua Xie** (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), **Robust and Data-Efficient Inverse Reinforcement Learning: A Control-Theoretic Perspective**

Fourteen forums were held: Seven IFAC forums, two open forums including “*The Tension Between Control and AI*,” and five industry group forums. On Monday evening, Ken Goldberg gave the public lecture “*Physical Intelligence: AI and Robots in Our Future*,” open to the Busan community. The *inControl* podcast was recorded live in the Auditorium with Mathukumalli Vidyasagar, Hassan Khalil, and Stephen Boyd. Back-to-Basics tutorials, a new format introduced at Busan, were given by Miroslav Krstic, Angelia Nedich, and Andrew Teel. The 21 pre-Congress workshops on Sunday drew 497 registrations, with topics ranging from PID design to quantum systems theory and GPU-accelerated optimal control.

On Wednesday, the Kwon Special Session honored Professor Wook Hyun Kwon (KR, IFAC President 2005-08), whose donation founded the IFAC Foundation. The same afternoon, the IFAC Foundation Kwon Award went to Angela Fontan, Patricia Eustachio Colombo, Rosemary Green, and Karl H. Johansson for “**A systems perspective on promoting sustainable food systems**,” *Annual Reviews in Control*, 2025.

IFAC Meetings

A World Congress is also the working meeting of the Federation. Sixty IFAC meetings were held at BEXCO from Saturday, August 22 to Friday, August 28, including the Outgoing and Incoming Councils, the three Boards, all six Executive Committees, and 35 of the 39 Technical Committees. The General Assembly met on Monday, August 24. It received the President’s Triennial Report for 2023-2026 and the Congress reports, and approved the slates of IFAC officials for 2026-2029, presented by Maria Prandini.

The President’s report recorded three principal achievements of the triennium. First, the technical structure was modernized. The keyword lists were rewritten, and a new Coordinating Committee increased the number of Technical Committees from 39 to 41. The technical structure is now responsive to changes in research topics. Second, participation was broadened through the Associated Member Organization category, the Affiliates Portal, and TC Senior Membership. Third, the digital services were rebuilt. The submission system moved to IFAC’s own servers,

and a new responsive website went live at the Congress.

In numbers, over the triennium, IFAC approved more than one hundred conferences, and journal submissions tripled. Five of the eight IFAC journals now rank in the first quartile. Expenditure rose by 50%, but income also rose, and the Federation ended the triennium financially stronger.

Ceremonies and Celebration

The week began on Saturday, August 22, with the IFAC President’s Dinner at the Park Hyatt Busan, held in honor of those who served IFAC during the triennium and on the National Organizing Committee. Eighteen Outstanding Service Awards and the Harold Chestnut Control Engineering Textbook Prize were presented, and the 25 IFAC Fellows of 2023-2026 were recognized. The full lists of recipients are available on the IFAC website.

About 2,200 participants attended the Opening Ceremony in the Auditorium on Sunday, August 23. It opened with *ogomu*, a traditional five-drum dance, and a *pungmul* folk percussion performance. A theme video carried messages from three former IFAC Presidents: Stephen J. Kahne, Brian D. O. Anderson, and Wook Hyun Kwon. After the opening remarks by the IFAC President, Dongil “Dan” Cho, five congratulatory remarks were given, including those from Jung-Kwan Kim, Minister of Trade, Industry and Resources; Hyun Cho, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Jae-soo Chun, Mayor of Busan Metropolitan City. The Congress report was given by the General Chair, Hyungbo Shim, and the IPC report by the IPC Co-Chairs, Hyo-Sung Ahn and Hyoun Jin Kim.

IFAC’s highest honors, the five Major Awards and the appointment of IFAC Advisors, were presented at the Opening Ceremony. The Giorgio Quazza Medal went to Arthur J. Krener, the Nathaniel B. Nichols Medal to Stephen P. Boyd, and the Manfred Thoma Medal to Yongxin Chen. The Industrial Achievement Award went to Raffaello D’Andrea, and the High Impact Paper Award to Romeo Ortega, Arjan van der Schaft, Bernhard Maschke, and Gerardo Escobar. Hajime Asama, Carlos E. Pereira, and Sarah K. Spurgeon were appointed IFAC Advisors. (Editor’s Note: The bios of the three new IFAC Advisors will appear in an upcoming issue of this *Newsletter*.)

The Welcome Reception followed under the Big Roof of the Busan Cinema Center, listed in Guinness World Records as the largest cantilever roof in the world. At 20:30, 500 drones formed the IFAC logo and images of various control themes.



The Congress Banquet was held on Thursday, August 27. Attendance was about 2,900. BEXCO reports this as the largest seated banquet at the venue, and the Congress as the largest event it has hosted. Yu Ji-sook, holder of National Intangible Cultural Heritage No. 29, opened the show with Arirang and other Seodo folk songs. SOOMLE performed the Saja Boys routine from K-Pop Demon Hunters, and the girl group tripleS closed the evening.



The Closing Ceremony on Friday, August 28, opened with the IFAC Control Orchestra, conducted by Yoonhak Baek. The IFAC Distinguished Lecturers of 2023-2026 were acknowledged. The Journal Paper Prizes were presented for eight IFAC journals, and the Congress Paper Prizes in five categories: Application, Interactive Theory, Interactive Applications, Young Author Theory, and Young Author Applications. General Chair Hyungbo Shim and IPC Co-Chair Hyo-Sung Ahn then summarized the Congress. IFAC President Dongil “Dan” Cho reviewed the achievements of the 2023-2026 triennium and passed the IFAC gavel and seal to the new President, Maria Prandini, who gave her inaugural address. Ming Cao and Manuel Mazo introduced IFAC 2029, and Deputy Ambassador Ted Hunink extended the invitation to the Netherlands.



IFAC Control Orchestra Performance at the IFAC 2026 Closing Ceremony

Around the Congress

Typhoon Saudel was tracked in the western Pacific as the Congress opened, but it turned west and did not reach the Korean peninsula. No rain fell on the Congress site from the Sunday opening until Friday afternoon, although a heat advisory was in force for much of the week. Heavy rain arrived after the Closing Ceremony had begun.

Each of the nine coffee breaks served specialty coffee with a different set of Korean snacks, drawn from familiar K-snacks and Busan specialties. Participants could also redeem cou-

pons for cup noodles and ice cream at the snack shop.

On Monday, a one-hour session, "Master the Korean Alphabet in Just 60 Minutes," introduced Hangul. There were three technical tours and eight social tours. Onsite childcare was available for children aged 36 months to 12 years.

Inclusion and Education

Ninety-three awards supported young and underrepresented researchers, and 90 recipients registered, three times the average of about 30 at the three preceding Congresses. The IFAC Foundation made 43 DC-YAS grants to young authors and 24 D&I Travel Support grants, all to researchers from outside high-income countries and regions. The National Organizing Committee (NOC) added 5 Young Author Support grants and 21 D&I Travel Support grants for applicants not eligible under the Foundation criteria.



Support recipients in front of the banners of past World Congresses

On Thursday, Mary Doyle-Kent organized the D&I Forum, "Stronger Together," and Steffi Knorn the Education Forum on the future of control education. That afternoon, the IFAC Foundation Diversity and Inclusion Award went to the Girls in Control team: Steffi Knorn, Damiano Varagnolo, Roxanne Jackson, and Keiko Shimizu.

A D&I Luncheon the same day brought together the participants of the Education, D&I, and Activity Fund forums with all recipients of young author support and D&I travel support, continuing a practice begun at Yokohama 2023.



D&I Luncheon

Students were the second-largest registration category, with 1,580 registrations. The PhD Forum drew 14 applicants, and 11 finalists presented. Inkyu Jang (Seoul National University), Changrui Liu (Delft University of Technology), and Gia Quoc Bao Tran (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) received the awards. Student volunteers ran the technical sessions throughout the week.

Three competitions drew 321 registered participants, all undergraduate and graduate students. The RoboRacer Grand Prix had 56 teams and 274 participants. Team InTheEND from Soongsil University won with an end-to-end learning-based controller. In the MathWorks Minidrone Competition, 85 teams registered, six reached the final, and team KOOBIL from Kookmin University won. The IFAC Wearable Robot Challenge had nine teams and 34 participants from six countries. Team Dynamic HUR from GIST received the Busan Experience Award, and team EXO Kai from KAIST received the Wearable Robotics Innovation Award.



RoboRacer Grand Prix

Two outreach programs brought 81 school students to BEXCO. KJ-RoboLab: A GiC-X Initiative carried the IFAC Girls in Control program forward and, for the first time, was co-organized with Japan, where a parallel program ran for female students. In Busan, it took a co-ed format led entirely by female professors and graduate students. On Saturday, August 22, 31 middle-school students (19 boys and 12 girls) worked in 11 teams with 13 female mentors.

IFAC Young Robot Explorers, organized with the Federation of Busan Science and Technology and PNU RISE, selected 50 upper-elementary and middle-school students from 89 applicants. On Wednesday, August 26, they toured the exhibition floor, watched a robot performance, heard a talk on the robotics industry, and built ping-pong robots.



Thanks and Onward to 2029

We thank the International Program Committee, the 50 members of the National Organizing Committee, the student volunteers, INTERCOM, ICROS, Busan Metropolitan City, the Korea Tourism Organization, and the Busan Tourism Organization. We also thank our sponsors, led by Hyundai Motor Company, and the 19 exhibiting organizations. Above all, we thank the 4,640 participants who came to Busan.

The 24th IFAC World Congress will be held in the Netherlands in 2029. We look forward to seeing you there.

Submitted by: Dongil "Dan" Cho, IFAC Past President (2023-2026), with Hyungbo Shim, IFAC 2026 General Chair, Hyo-Sung Ahn, IFAC 2026 IPC Co-Chair, Hyoun Jin Kim, IFAC 2026 IPC Co-Chair



The TC keywords have been updated.

Please connect to the Affiliates Portal to review your fields of interest.

<https://affiliates.ifac-control.org/>

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Impressum:

Medieninhaber und Herausgeber:
International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC), Zurich
Schlossplatz 12, 2361 Laxenburg, Austria

Verlagsort und Redaktion: Dr. Dimitri Peaucelle,
Schlossplatz 12, 2361 Laxenburg
newsletter@ifac-control.org
Editor: Dimitri Peaucelle
Deputy Editor: Moritz Schulze Darup
Layout: Elske Haberl
published bimonthly

ISSN 0254-3109

Das Sekretariat der IFAC befindet sich seit 1978 aufgrund eines Übereinkommens mit der Österreichischen Bundesregierung und mit der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Laxenburg und wird derzeit aus Mitteln des Bundesministeriums für Innovation, Mobilität, und Infrastruktur „BMIMI“ gefördert.

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

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

Title	Date	Place	Further Information
9 th ACDOS/IFAC Conference on Advances in Control and Optimization of Dynamical Systems ACODS 2026	November 18 – 21 2026	Warangal India	acods-conference.org/
6 th IFAC Workshop on Cyber-Physical Human Systems CPHS 2026	December 11 – 12 2026	Redondo Beach, CA USA	cphs2026.org/
16 th IFAC Workshop on Intelligent Manufacturing Systems IMS 2027	April 7 – 9 2027	Seville Spain	amest-ims-2027.es/
7 th IFAC Workshop on Advanced Maintenance Engineering, Services and Technology AMEST 2027	April 7 – 9 2027	Seville Spain	amest-ims-2027.es/
19 th IFAC Conference on Programmable Devices and Embedded Systems PDES 2027	May 19 – 21 2027	Ostrava Czech Republic	https://www.pdes-conference.eu/ pdes@vsb.cz
8 th IFAC Conference on Analysis and Control of Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos ACNDC 2027	June 9 – 11 2027	Monte Porzio Catone (Rome) Italy	conferences.ifac-control.org/acndc2027/
13 th IFAC Symposium on Control of Power and Energy Systems CPES 2027	June 10 – 12 2027	Cluj-Napoca Romania	
20 th IFAC Workshop on Time Delay Systems TDS 2027	June 27 – 30 2027	Napoli Italy	https://www.ifactds2027.com/ info@ifactds2027.com
19 th IFAC Symposium on Information, Control and Optimisation in Manufacturing INCOM 2027	June 28 – 30 2027	Nantes France	incom2027.com
13 th IFAC Symposium on Fault Detection, Supervision and Safety for Technical Processes SAFEPROCESS 2027	June/July 29 – 02 2027	Delft Netherlands	conferences.ifac-control.org/safeprocess2027/ ifac-safeprocess2027@tudelft.nl
9 th IFAC Workshop on Lagrangian and Hamiltonian Methods for Nonlinear Control LHMNC 2027	June/July 30 – 02 2027	Mexico City Mexico	lhmc27@itam.mx lhmc27.itam.mx
AACC, IFAC, et al. Conference on American Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC)	July 5 – 9 2027	Philadelphia, PA USA	acc2027.a2c2.org/
21 st IFAC Symposium on System Identification - Learning models for decision and control SYSID 2027	July 7 – 9 2027	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 2027	Brussels Belgium	ecc27.euca-ecc.org/

Calendar of IFAC Conferences

9 th IFAC Conference on Analysis and Design of Hybrid Systems ADHS 2027	July 21 – 23 2027	L'Aquila Italy	https://adhs2027.disim.univaq.it/ adhs2027@univaq.it
12 th IFAC Symposium on Robust Control Design ROCOND 2027	July 28 – 30 2027	Fortaleza Brazil	sba.org.br/rocondlpvs2027/ rocondlpvs27@dee.ufc.br
7 th IFAC Workshop on Linear Parameter Varying Systems LPVS 2027	July 28 – 30 2027	Fortaleza Brazil	sba.org.br/rocondlpvs2027/ rocondlpvs27@dee.ufc.br
14 th IFAC Conference on Fractional Differentiation and its Applications ICFDA 2027	August 23 – 26 2027	Delft Netherlands	conferences.ifac-control.org/icfda2027/ icfda2027@tudelft.nl
5 th IFAC Conference on Modelling, Identification and Control of Nonlinear Systems MICNON 2027	September 6 – 10 2027	Eindhoven Netherlands	conferences.ifac-control.org/micnon2027/
8 th IFAC Workshop on Mining, Mineral and Metal Processing MMM 2027	September 7 – 8 2027	Pretoria South Africa	conferences.ifac-control.org/cca-mmm-2027/
4 th SACAC/IFAC Conference on Control Conference Africa CCA 2027	September 7 – 8 2027	Pretoria South Africa	conferences.ifac-control.org/cca-mmm-2027/
9 th IFAC Conference on Nonlinear Model Predictive Control NMPC 2027	September 13 – 16 2027	Hamburg Germany	conferences.ifac-control.org/nmpc2027/ nmpc2027orga-e14@tuhh.de
68 th International Conference of Scandinavian Simulation Society SIMS 2027	September 22 – 23 2027	Oulu Finland	
23 rd IFAC Conference on Technology, Culture and International Stability TECIS 2027	Sept./October 29 – 01 2027	Baku Azerbaijan	
17 th IFAC Conference on Control Applications in Marine Systems, Robotics, and Vehicles CAMS 2027	October 4 – 7 2027	Šibenik Croatia	
7 th AACC/IFAC Conference on Modeling, Estimation and Control MECC 2027	October 9 – 13 2027	Salt Lake City, UT USA	
2 nd IFAC Workshop on Blockchain Intelligence and Knowledge Automation BIKA 2027	November 7 – 8 2027	Tokyo Japan	
AACC, IFAC, et al. Conference on American Control Conference (in cooperation with IFAC) ACC 2028	May/June 31 – 02 2028	San Francisco, CA USA	acc2028.a2c2.org/