

Preface: Conference Chair

Hong Kong, and, in particular, the City University of Hong Kong are pleased to welcome PACLIC again for the third time: the first was in 1995 and the second in 2001. Since our last PACLIC in Hong Kong, *Language, Information and Computation*, the principal concerns of PACLIC have increasingly impacted on human life and society, ranging from research underlying search engines to work on speech technology and mobile phone access. Interests in this field have blossomed considerably, with many truly global and regional conferences having been held in the Pacific Rim. They include ACL and IJCNLP (International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing), the flagship conference of the recently established Asian Federation of Natural Language Processing (AFNLP), of which PACLIC is a member.

The 145 submissions to the 23rd PACLIC have more than doubled the number of submissions in each of the recent conferences, thereby showing a tremendous expansion of interests. It also shows the drawing power of PACLIC as a successful regional conference, which is reflected by the 50th place it holds out of 701 conferences in the area of AI and Machine Learning according to the Computer Science Conference Ranking Website. The acceptance rate of 40% for oral presentation and 25% for poster session continues the tradition of rigorous review process for PACLIC.

We are very grateful that the 23rd PACLIC has brought together a hundred presenters, as well as a large group of invited speakers with diverse background: Dr. Keh-Jiann Chen (Academia Sinica, Taipei), Professor Dafydd Gibbon (Universität Bielefeld), Professor Noriko Kando (National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo), Dr. Anna Korhonen (University of Cambridge), Professor Ik-Hwan Lee (Sangmyung University), Professor Helen Meng (Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Dr. Ming Zhou (Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing).

The success of PACLIC has come about as a result of cultivation by many scholars over nearly a quarter of a century. They include Professor Akira Ikeya from Tokyo and Professor Byung-Soo Park from Seoul. For the 23rd PACLIC, we are especially pleased to see a special co-located event: A Dialogue between Professor Sydney Lamb and Professor William Wang. The two distinguished scholars have been keen observers and influential contributors on *Language, Information and Computation* since the 1960's when a paradigmatic shift in their related studies became evident with the advent of the computer and the additional availability of new frontiers in languages and linguistics.

The 23rd PACLIC is grateful for the support and work of Professor Jae-Woong Choe, Chair of the PACLIC Steering Committee, Professor Chu-Ren Huang, the Conference Co-Chair, Professor Jonathan Webster, the Program Committee Advisor, and Dr. Olivia Kwong, under whom the Program Committee members and the entire Local Organization Team have attended to the conference preparations with dedication, and taken care of even the finest logistic details with devotion. I hope this will be a memorable occasion for the PACLIC participants as well as for the colleagues and students in the Department of Chinese, Translation & Linguistics and Language Information Sciences Research Centre of the City University of Hong Kong.

Benjamin K. T'sou
November 2009

Preface: Program Committee Chair

The number and breadth of submissions to PACLIC conferences as well as the diversity of authorship have been on an upward trend since the inauguration of the series in 1995. However it expands, PACLIC is certainly proud to remain one of the few which manage to maintain a healthily balanced and symbiotic co-existence of formal linguists and computational linguists, and continue to emphasize the synergy of theoretical analysis and computer processing of language among researchers in the Pacific Asia region.

Such strengths are evident from the 145 papers submitted to PACLIC 23 from 20 countries or regions: 82.8% from 9 regions in Asia, 8.3% from 7 regions in Europe, 5.5% from the United States and Canada, 2.8% from the Middle East, and 0.7% from Australia. We would like to thank all authors for their submissions. Of these, 40% were accepted for regular paper presentations and an additional 25% for poster presentations, constituting a diverse technical program. I must say a big thankyou to our professional Program Committee, including the six regional Co-Chairs: Dr. Shu-Kai Hsieh, Dr. Donghong Ji, Prof. Yae-Sheik Lee, Prof. Rachel Edita Roxas, Prof. Kei Yoshimoto, and Dr. Min Zhang, 73 supportive committee members and 34 helpful additional reviewers, for their competence and hard work, and most importantly, prompt feedback.

PACLIC 23 will span three days from 3rd to 5th December 2009, featuring invited talks, plenary talks, regular paper presentations, and a poster session. We would like to thank the invited and plenary speakers, who will enlighten us on a wide range of topics: Dr. Keh-Jiann Chen and Dr. Anna Korhonen on lexical semantics, Prof. Dafydd Gibbon and Prof. Helen Meng on speech technology, Prof. Noriko Kando on system evaluation, Prof. Ik-Hwan Lee on formal semantics, and Dr. Ming Zhou on Chinese couplet and quatrain generation. PACLIC 23 is also pleased to co-locate with a lecture series on *LANGUAGE: Its Neurocognitive Bases*, which will climax with a dialogue between Prof. Sydney Lamb and Prof. William Wang on 4th December.

My job would have been impossible without the help of many individuals. I am very much indebted to Prof. Benjamin T'sou, the Conference Chair, for his long-term unfailing support and particularly his unswayed confidence in my role for this conference. I am also most grateful to Prof. Chu-Ren Huang, the Conference Co-Chair, for his significant help in promoting the conference. My gratitude also goes to Prof. Jonathan Webster, the Program Committee Advisor, for his advice and generous departmental support. I would also like to thank the PACLIC Steering Committee, particularly Prof. Jae-Woong Choe, the Committee Chair, and Prof. Yasunari Harada, the Digital Archivist; as well as previous PACLIC organizers, including Prof. Rachel Edita Roxas, Prof. Hee-Rahk Chae, and Prof. Tingting He, for sharing their experience. The concerted effort of the devoted and resourceful Local Organization Team is the major force putting the whole conference in shape, and the credit goes to Tom Lai, the co-convenor, Caesar Lun, Ian Chow, Ernest Lam, Kin-Tat Ko, Toby Hong, Sadie Chan, Alpha Ho, and all colleagues who have contributed in one way or another behind the scene.

Last but not least, as a participant, your presence makes our conference special! Thank you for making a difference to PACLIC 23! Enjoy our program and have a nice time in Hong Kong!

Olivia O.Y. Kwong
November 2009

