

Message from the Steering Committee

We are pleased to introduce the Twelfth edition of the International Conference on COMMunication Systems and NETworkS (COMSNETS). The conference once again assembled a strong technical program derived from a pool of outstanding submissions. In addition, the conference will once again be offering poster session for emerging research, a graduate forum for students to get exposure and technical feedback for their research, and a Demos & Exhibits session where many start-ups, universities and established companies provide examples of research-in-action with working prototypes or commercialized products. COMSNETS continues to host several workshops that cover diverse topics. The 2020 edition of the conference boasts of six workshops in current areas - Machine Intelligence in Networked Data and Systems (MINDS), "Last-mile" Challenges and Standardization Opportunities in Smart Infrastructure, Cyber Security and Blockchain, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Networking Humanitarian Technology for Healthcare. We are glad that the 1st ACM Workshop on Autonomous and Intelligent Mobile Systems is being held in partnership with COMSNETS 2020.

The conference continues a special Mentoring session for the 5th year, where young researchers can meet with established researchers for direct interaction. Moreover, the COMSJOB session will be held once again after a successful first year in 2019. This venue allows sponsoring organizations to connect with potential recruits for open positions.

We are delighted that, for the first time, the COMSNETS conference will be recognizing outstanding researchers and long-time contributors to the success of the conference. The first-of-a-kind Fireside Chat at COMSNETS 2020 will see Prof. Vijay Raghunathan and Dr. Jeffrey Tew interacting with Prof. Anurag Kumar (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India) and Prof. P. R. Kumar (Texas A&M University, USA). In addition, the conference would be hosting the first Women-in-Engineering (WiE) workshop with the theme "the role of Women in the next era of Technology".

The primary conference continues to be held in Bangalore, and the Steering Committee is grateful for the long-standing support from the management and staff of the Chancery Pavilion hotel, Bangalore. The facilities provided at the hotel have more than kept up with the annual growth of the conference.

The COMSNETS 2020 organizing committee is once again composed of a strong mix of industry and academic researchers from around the world. Through their efforts, a strong technical program has been put together for this year's version of the conference. In particular, we are extremely grateful to the distinguished General Co-Chairs - Prof. Swades De (IIT Delhi, India), Prof. Vijay Raghunathan (Purdue University, USA) and Prof. Falko Dressler (University of Paderborn, Germany). The General Co-Chairs have left no stone unturned in ensuring a high quality and a packed 5-day program. We are deeply appreciative of the Technical Program Committee Co-Chairs - Dr. Ashutosh Dutta (The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Labs, USA) Prof. Sandip Chakraborty (IIT Kharagpur, India), and Prof. JeongGil Ko (Yonsei University, South Korea). The General Chairs, TPC Chairs, the Technical Program Committee, Workshop Chairs, Panel Chairs, Poster Chairs, Graduate Forum Chairs, Demos & Exhibits Chairs, Publicity & Publications Chairs, Awards and Honors Chairs, Local Arrangements and the Registration Chairs have worked hard and put together an outstanding program for this year's conference. We would like to thank Ms. Chandrika Sridhar and Mr. Raj Sharma for their continued support of the conference and Mr. Ananda Krishna for his long-standing leadership of the conference's

information technology requirements. Our special thanks to Ms. Madhumita Mallick from IIT Kharagpur for her outstanding contributions as the conference Web Chair. Madhumita has been extremely pro-active throughout the year and has spent a lot of time and effort in ensuring a fantastic conference home page.

We would like to thank Mr. Sudipta Maitra not only for his role this year as the Operations Chair but also for his long-standing involvement since the beginning days of the conference. Our special thanks to Ms. Rajeshwari Maitra, the registration co-chair for her contributions to the conference.

The conference continues to benefit from several industrial sponsors and university partners. We give a special note of gratitude to this year's Gold Sponsors, Cisco and the Murty Foundation (a first-time sponsor). We are sincerely grateful to our Silver Sponsors, Qualcomm, Microsoft, Google and The IEEE Future Networks Society. In addition, we appreciate our Bronze Sponsors - Singapore Management University, Tejas Networks, BMS College of Engineering (Bangalore), Bosch, InnAccel, Arista Networks, the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee, the IEEE Signal Processing Society, and the IEEE Bangalore Section of the IEEE Humanitarian Technology Special Interest Group. The current edition of COMSNETS is supported by the Science & Engineering Research Board, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. We are extremely grateful to DST for their generous funding for COMSNETS 2020.

We are delighted to have the University of Pennsylvania, Singapore Management University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, IISc Bangalore, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, IIIT Delhi, IIIT Bangalore, BMS College of Engineering, and the Dhirubhai Ambani Institute for Information and Communication Technology as university partners. We are also delighted to continue our relationship with IEEE who are the technical co-sponsors of COMSNETS again through the IEEE Communications Society. We are grateful to ACM for their continued support, through the SIGCOMM and SIGMOBILE special interest groups. ACM SIGCOMM along with LRN Foundation have also underwritten the student travel grants for the conference for many years and we are grateful to them. We also welcome the technical partners TSDSI and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), as well as Arista Networks as the WiFi service provider for the conference. Finally, we are grateful to Videoken, the video services partner for COMSNETS.

We take this opportunity to, once again, thank our colleagues who have worked tirelessly for the conference throughout the year. Our special thanks to Mrs. Pamela Kumar, Prof. Sandip Chakraborty, Dr. Amit Kumar Saha, Dr. Abhishek Appaji, Dr. Prasant Misra, Mr. Raj Sharma, Ms. Madhumita Mallick, Mr. Ananda Krishna, Mrs. Chandrika Sridhar and Dr. Jeffrey Tew. Our special thanks to Dr. B. M. Baveja (former Senior Director, MeitY, Government of India) and Ms. Geeta Kathpalia (Director, MeitY, Government of India) for their huge support to the conference.

Finally, we would like to appreciate the stellar efforts of the 12 student volunteers of the conference. They have been working tirelessly since the last few months and will play a major role during the conference.

We welcome you to COMSNETS 2020, and hope that you are able to take full advantage of all this conference has to offer.



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