

OBCom2006 – INT’L CONFERENCE ON MOBILE, UBIQUITOUS & PERSVASIVE COMPUTING

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are critical to India’s future and underpin realization of the Vision 2020. It is essential that ICT sector meet the rise in demand for health and social care and to modernize services in domains of public interest such as education and training, security, energy, transport and environment. In this context, use of mobile computing and communication is the key success factor for us in the global race to achieve the convergence of computing, communications and media technologies. Mobile computing and related developments continue to emerge, grow, and spread as a global phenomenon that spans and connects culture, technologies, and organizations.

The VIT University under the visionary leadership of its founder Mr. G. Viswanathan has been keeping pace with the most exciting technologies of modern times, which stimulate scholarly research and popular debate in many disciplines. The objects- and components- based software development are such important aspects which have paved the way to design and develop market-driven information and communication technologies, systems and products. Foreseeing importance and impact of the above, School of Computing Sciences of VIT University has been organizing **ObCom** series of International Conferences since the year 2003 which received overwhelming response from academia, R&D organizations, industry and professional societies.

With the society becoming increasingly mobile, businesses and consumers looking to wireless technologies for solutions to their ICT needs, the theme of ObCom2006 was on “Mobile, Ubiquitous & Pervasive Computing”. The Conference was organized by School of Computing Sciences of VIT University, jointly with Computer Society of India, Division-II & IV during 16-19 December 2006 with excellent support of TCS and Lenovo as Platinum Sponsors, Honeywell Technology Solutions and Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India as Gold Sponsors, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Govt. of India, IBM, HP, Infosys Technologies, Wipro, and AMD and Broadline Communications as event sponsors.

The Chapters/Branches of CSI, ISTE, IEEE, IEE at VIT University were actively involved in organizing ObCom2006 Conference which got an overwhelming response from resource persons and authors for pre-conference tutorials and contributed papers from all over the world. It attracted over 400 papers and out of which domain experts and technical reviewers accepted about 100 papers for presentation and publication.

The international speakers and resource persons were from University of Applied Sciences, Germany, University of Melbourne, Australia, Ryerson University, Canada, New Mexico



Tech, USA, Santa Clara University, USA, Wright State University, USA, Burgas Free University, Bulgaria, National University of Singapore, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand, and King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology, Thailand. Within India, invited speakers and resource persons were from IITs, NITs, IIITs, JNU, University of Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia, Anna University, VTU, Bhavnagar University, North Gujarat University, JNTU, Osmania University, University of Hyderabad, C-DAC, Symbol Technologies and others.

The Conference had a total of 8 tracks, during 18-19 December 2006, covering technologies, protocols, design, implementation, applications, methodologies, best practices and case studies. Each session had a keynote talk, presentation of papers and discussions moderated by an expert to bring out a summary of current status of technology and a set of recommendations for future research and development.

The Conference also had 6 pre-conference tutorials (during 16-17 December 2006) by renowned industry experts and eminent researchers/practitioners viz. -Wireless Network Design for Enterprise Computing, -Enterprise Mobility Management, -Wireless Security Analysis & Design, -Mobile Device Programming, -Wireless Sensors Network Simulation and -Malicious Code Detection & Malware Analysis and a one-day pre-conference Workshop on “Networks Simulator-2”. The pre-conference tutorials and Workshop were very special hands-on technical sessions designed to cater to the needs of budding industry professionals, researchers, faculty members and students.

Opening Ceremony of Pre-Conference Tutorials & Workshops

Prof. M. Prabhaker, Wright State University, Ohio, USA, and Mr. H.R. Mohan, Chairman, CSI Division-II, were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour for the opening ceremony of Pre-Conference Tutorials and Workshops. Prof. V. Radhakrishnan, Program Chair welcomed and Prof. H.R. Vishwakarma, Technical Chair outlined objectives and contents of tutorials/workshops. Prof. Prabhaker, appreciated the theme of tutorials and their relevance for students and budding professionals. He also delivered a keynote address on “Recent Trends in Wireless Security” highlighting issues/challenges of wireless security and potential areas of research especially in the context of India emerging as knowledge-superpower. 300 participants from industry, academia and research organizations attended the opening ceremony and got benefited.



Inaugural Function of ObCom2006 and Keynote Sessions

Mr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT University was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function. Mr. Sankar Viswanathan, Pro-Chancellor (Academic), Mr. G.V. Sampath, Pro-Chancellor (Admin), VIT University, Prof. Bettina Harriehausen-Mühlbauer, University of Applied Sciences, Germany, Prof. Raj Kumar Buyya, University of Melbourne, Australia and Mr. H.R. Mohan, Chairman, CSI Division-II were the Guests of Honours.

Prof. V. Radhakrishnan, Program Chair, welcomed and Prof. H.R. Vishwakarma, Technical Chair presented objectives and highlights of technical sessions of 8 technical tracks on technologies, protocols, design, implementation, applications and case studies and outlined the programme schedule and sessions.

Mr. G.V. Sampath in his felicitation address appreciated the organizers for their excellent work. He pointed out the significance of mobile computing and communications technologies in India. Dr. Anand A Samuel, Registrar highlighted the relevance of such international conferences facilitating exchange of ideas and promoting collaborative research among academicians and researchers. Mr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor of VIT University released the souvenir and Conference proceedings published by McMillan Publications.

Prof. Raj Kumar Buyya, in his opening remarks recalled his association with ObCom series of Conferences since the year 2003 and graduation of scope of Conference series from National level to Asia Pacific Regional level and finally the International level in 2006. He highlighted the importance of ObCom2006 and the research potential related to its theme. He called upon students to pursue their higher studies and research for moving up in the value chain from just services outsourcing to high-end research. He said that plenty of opportunities exist for our engineers and scientists.

Prof. Bettina Harriehausen-Mühlbauer, University of Applied Sciences, Germany, in her opening remarks appreciated VIT and its Chancellor Mr. G. Viswanathan for providing excellent networking opportunities and culmination of cultures at a single forum. She shared her pleasant experience of a harmonious co-existence of traditions and technologies in India even in rural communities. She complimented the organizers for their extra-ordinary achievements in this Conference.

In his inaugural speech Mr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor said that information and communication technologies are critical to India's future and underpin the realization of the Vision 2020. He stressed on the need of collaborative approach wherein academia-industry partnership drive the ICT sector to meet the rise in demand for health and social care and to modernize services in domains of public interest such as education, learning, security, energy, transport and the environment. In this context, he complimented the organizers of the ObCom2006 for choosing a very apt theme. He opined that mobile computing and related development continues to emerge, grow, and spread as a global phenomenon that spans and connects culture, technology, and organization. These are the most exciting technologies of modern times that is stimulating scholarly research and popular debate in many



disciplines. He felt the need to explore various avenues of adaptation and appropriation of existing technologies in addition to developing new technologies meeting our national and societal needs.

Mr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor highlighted the potential applications for *meeting societal challenge such as* new systems and services in areas of public interest improving quality, efficiency, and access and user friendliness. Further quoting another example of application, he felt that healthcare services can be greatly modernized for improving disease prevention, early diagnosis and personalization; autonomy, safety and mobility of patients; health information and knowledge discovery. These technologies can facilitate *mobility*; intelligent transportation systems and vehicles to move safely, comfortably and efficiently. The power these technologies can support the *environment* and sustainable development to reduce vulnerability and to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters and industrial accidents. Undoubtedly, these technologies could lead towards effective governance; efficiency, openness and accountability, for a world-class public administration and links to citizens and businesses. He appealed to the chairmen of various technical sessions to summarize current status of technology and bring out a set of recommendations for future research and development thus paving a way for future technological development finally bridging the digital divide.

Prof. Raj Kumar Buyya, gave the keynote speech on "The Gridbus Middleware for Utility-Oriented Grid Computing" and Prof. Bettina delivered an invited talk on "The heirs of Yzun: An NLP-Powered Game Which Teaches German on a Mobile Phone".

Over 400 delegates and invitees attended the programme. Mr. P. Venkata Krishna, Organizing Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

Valedictory Function of ObCom2006

Mr. T.V. Kamala Kannan, General Manager, TCS was the chief guest for the valedictory function presided by Mr. Sankar Viswanathan, Pro-Chancellor (Academic). Mr. Kamala Kannan, in his valedictory speech, recalled his company's close association with VIT University. He elaborated on how the mobile computing and communications technologies are changing the lifestyles of even common public including the rural communities apart from the great impact on the enterprises and industry at large. He appealed for aiming beyond the current focus on software services outsourcing models and preparing for new and the far-reaching opportunities in the context of the recent trend of R&D and knowledge process outsourcing. He complimented and acknowledged the excellent work and achievements of ObCom2006.

An announcement was also made about ObCom2008 international conference on the theme "High Performance and Futuristic Computing" to be held during 18-20 December 2008 at VIT University.

Mr. P. Kalyanaraman, Secretary, CSI Vellore Chapter thanked the audience.