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A Unique ICASSP 2022

During an unusual time

The 47th edition of ICASSP will be held in Singapore from 22 to 27 May 2022. Welcome to ICASSP 2022!

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our life and work one way or another. But it has not dampened our scientific endeavors and our enthusiasm for the annual gathering. The conference has received more than 3,900 regular paper submissions, among the highest in the history. During this unusual time, we are planning a unique conference experience for our thriving research communities. As the general chair, I write to give you an update and to invite your participation.

Signal processing has never been so important for us. Much of what we do today during the pandemic, including our virtual meetings, benefits from the scientific progress of signal processing and the technologies that we developed. ICASSP 2022 embraces a theme of human-centric signal processing to underscore the significant contributions of signal processing to humanity.

Since the unforeseen shift to a virtual format for ICASSP 2020, the conference has adapted to provide virtual options and enhancements for participants. Over the past two years, ICASSP has created an environment via Gather.Town with the goal of emulating the in-person experience. During the past two years, as a virtual conference, ICASSP has attracted approximately 20,000 attendees combined, many of whom have been first timers and some from countries not historically represented at ICASSP. Through engaging social events with live music and entertainment, spontaneous interactions among peers, interactive poster sessions, and more, ICASSP has aimed to bring together a far bigger global community of attendees, exhibitors, and IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) members.

As we embrace a new normal of daily life and Singapore opens up its borders to the world, I am happy to announce that ICASSP 2022 will be run in hybrid mode to accommodate both online and onsite participation. The onsite option marks the first step toward a return to our traditional face-to-face meeting, while the online choice reaffirms our commitment to make the conference the most accessible ever. Although Singapore remains the main conference venue, we are also planning a secondary venue in China, where regional delegates can meet each other without crossing the quarantine border. You may choose your mode of participation at the time of registration.

The conference is honored to host the Norbert Wiener Lecture by Prof. Sergios Theodoridis, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece and Aalborg University, Denmark, and three keynote speakers: Prof. Yi Ma,

the University of California, Berkeley, USA; Prof. Tanja Schultz, the University of Bremen, Germany; and Prof. Robert W. Heath Jr., North Carolina State University, USA. The technical committee has accepted eight grand challenges and 18 special sessions, which join the regular sessions to make up an extraordinarily rich technical program. We've spared no effort to ensure an interactive conference experience in hybrid mode for all the technical sessions.

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The conference continues its tradition of innovation and will feature many new initiatives in 2022. I would like to highlight a brand-new education track that includes 16 tutorials given by renowned researchers, a number of training courses, and outreach programs for members and students of the SPS. It is worth mentioning that we have greatly upgraded the industry track, which includes keynotes, expert sessions, panels, workshops, seminars, and show-and-tell demos. ICASSP 2022 will also h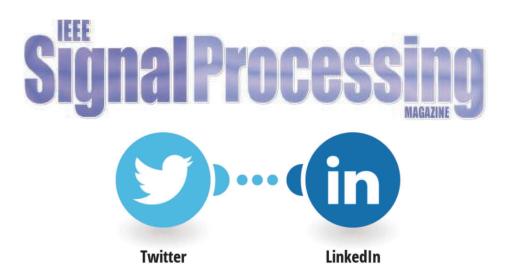ost the inaugural Entrepreneurship Forum of the SPS to connect technopreneurs, investors, and leaders in the start-up ecosystem.

As a city-state, Singapore may be one of the world's smallest countries, but it is known for its great business and tourism infrastructure, unparalleled international air connectivity, amazing variety of delicious food due to a rich mix of cultures, and world-class hotels. Singapore is ready to provide safe travel and convention offerings to meet the evolving requirements of a postpandemic world. As a knowledge-driven economy, Singapore has a vibrant R&D landscape in information and communications technology. The signal processing community is a part of the fabric of Singapore's R&D landscape. We are looking forward to welcoming our friends and colleagues from around the world at ICASSP 2022!

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