Conference Quality
IEEE R10 Meet
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R10 Conference & Technical Seminar Committee 2019
Outline

- Overview of IEEE Conferences
- Importance of Conference Quality
- Technical Co-sponsorship
- Technical Program Committee
- Quality Issues
- Conclusions
# 2018 IEEE Global Conference Business

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<tr>
<th>Sponsored 1966 conferences</th>
<th>in 103 countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>997 financially sponsored</td>
<td>969 technically co-sponsored</td>
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Partner with over 1400 non-IEEE entities
With Universities and other not-for-profit organizations

Over 561,000 attendees

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<th>Financially sponsored conferences</th>
<th>Technically co-sponsored conferences</th>
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<tr>
<td>282K</td>
<td>279K</td>
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Acquired 1,893 conference proceedings

Approved Conference Activity as of 31 December 2018
Total Number of IEEE Conferences
IEEE Society/Council/Geographic Unit/Other – Sponsored/Co-Sponsored

Approved Conference Activity through 31 December 2018
182 of the 2018 FCS conferences are Workshops which is a 44.4% increase over 126 in 2017
Importance of Conference Quality

- Preserve IEEE’s reputation
- Maintain IEEE conference publication ability to be indexed by partners
- Avoid legal risks
What is Technical Co-sponsorship?

From IEEE policy 10:

- Technical co-sponsorship indicates direct and substantial involvement by the IEEE organizational unit solely in the organization of the technical program.
- The IEEE Organizational Unit has no financial involvement in the conference.
Key TCS Policies

- An IEEE OU must approve (e.g. Society, Section, Regional)
- The financial sponsor must be explicitly identified
- IEEE organizational unit may assist in publicity
- OU should encourage members to submit papers, attend conference
- TCS does not guarantee that the papers are eligible for inclusion in the IEEE conference publications program (Xplore)
- The IEEE name may not be used in the conference title
- The IEEE brand and IEEE OU brand may be used
- Provide the OU with exhibition booth, table, etc., at no cost, to promote membership and activities during the conference

www.ieee.org/documents/ieee_policies.pdf
TCS Branding Best Practices

- The sponsoring institution is clearly identified
- If the IEEE logo is used, the technical co-sponsoring OU is clearly identified next to it
  - Complies with IEEE branding guidelines
- Chapters comply with Society/Council guidelines
  - Typically the Chapter is identified next to the S/C logo
- The type of IEEE involvement (TCS) is identified
TCS is for Conferences Organized by:

- Other IEEE OUs
- Other professional societies
- Universities
- Other non-profit entities
- *TCS may not be granted to for-profit organizers*
- Commercial entities can act as supporters, patrons and sponsors
- **Sponsoring OU should have significant technical involvement**
What is the Purpose of the Conference?

- Is the primary purpose to make money?
- Pay to publish scheme?
Warning Signs

- Registration fees and fee structure
  - Authorship based fees
  - Unusually high fees

- Participants
  - Fees submit for a paper are the only fees

- Physical participation is not required
  - But sometimes remote participation may be appropriate

- Inadequate time to present a paper
  - 15+ minutes for presentation plus Q&As

- Provision to publish papers in organizer’s journal
  - May be a predatory journal (charging publication fees to authors without providing the editorial and publishing services)
Technical Co-sponsorship

- Background of key person: Conference chair, TPC chair, etc.
- Evaluate prior years of conference
- Conference scope
- Ensure good technical quality
  - Quality of TPC members
  - Review process
  - Review criteria – does it include originality?
  - Acceptance rate
- Work with the organizers
  - As the technical co-sponsor, be involved in the technical program
Key points

- Does the conference serve your community?
- Compliance with IEEE policies and best practices
- Consider IEEE’s value and reputation
- TCS fee
  - $1000 base charge plus $15/paper published in Xplore
  - Paid by the conference or the TCS sponsor
Technical Program Committee

- Responsible for the technical program
  - Technical papers, keynotes, panels, etc.
  - Workshops, industry events, etc.
- Chaired by a TPC Chair or Chairs
- Reviewing
  - TPC + team of credible reviewers
  - International members
- Review Requirements
  - Ideally 3 reviews per paper
  - Don’t overload the reviewers
  - Plagiarism checking
Reviewing Writing and Content Quality

- Main criteria – Does the writing quality interfere with the ability to understand the technical content?
  - While it may not be perfect English, it must be comprehensible!
- Fraudulent content are seriously dealt with
  - Plagiarism
  - Machine-generated papers
- Contributions and basic scientific paper content hypothesis
  - What contributions has the paper made?
IEEE now requires plagiarism checking of technical content

- Option of conducting the check
  - At submission / After review / On final submission

- Early use saves effort later in the system

- Warn authors/reviewers of other forms of unethical conduct
  - Multiple submission to different conferences
  - Re-publication (also known as self plagiarism)

- Tool is NOT a replacement for effective peer review!
Non-presented Papers

- Conferences aren’t just for publication – you need attendees!
  - Registration is only a small part of the total cost of attendance
  - Other attendees dislike cancelled papers promised to them in the programme

- Conference organizers may choose to suppress non-presented papers from Xplore
  - If you do so, you must advise authors from the start (call for papers)

- Different IEEE societies have different approaches
  - Some require the presentation always to be by an author
  - Some allow medical exceptions
  - Some allow visa exceptions

- You must have a fair, auditable process

- Paper should be presented by someone familiar enough with the content to answer questions
  - Doesn’t really have to be an author for that criteria

- Beware of video presentations
  - They are not popular with attendees
Conclusions

- A lot of conferences in Asia-Pacific (50% of the geo unit conferences in 2018)
- Work towards improving IEEE conferences and paper quality
- Building the reputation of your conference
- On-going training, communication and monitoring of conferences is necessary
- Organizers to be aware of the required standards and expectations
Conclusions

- Conference quality check
  - Review quality concern
    - Out-of-scope papers
    - Low quality papers (difficult to read and understand)
    - Machine generated papers
    - Plagiarism
  - High level of non-presented papers