



## Conference Summary Report

### Overview:

The Second International Conference on Software, Knowledge, Information Management and Applications **SKIMA 2008** took place at Soaltee Crowne Plaza in Kathmandu, Nepal from 18 to 21 March, 2008. The conference was organized by Kantipur Engineering College in collaboration with EAST-WEST (EU-Asia Link Project). This year's conference was a follow-up to First international conference on Software, Knowledge, Information Management and Applications **SKIMA 2006** held in Thailand.

Bringing together over 120 participants from 14 countries representing high-level government agencies, EU, international universities, research institutes, colleges, industry and organizations, the Conference sought to accelerate the worldwide progress in the area of Research and Development in ICT sector.

During the Conference, participants heard presentations by high-level ICT researchers, professionals and key persons of government organizations and engaged in discussions. The conference encapsulated altogether 11 Technical Sessions on various thematic areas with 51 technical research papers.

### Program of the Conference:

#### **Arrival Dinner (17 March, 2008)**

An arrival dinner was given to the special guests who had come from different countries and members of SKIMA Secretariat. Encouraging was the presence of Board Members of Kantipur Engineering College.

#### **Day 1 (18 March, 2008)-Tutorial Session at Kantipur Engineering College**

Specially targeted Tutorial Session was organized for the students at Kantipur Engineering College. 45 Students and 30 faculties from 9 Engineering colleges in Kathmandu valley participated in the session. Tutorials covered the topics in the areas of Soft Computing, Supply Chain Management, Knowledge Management, Mobile Technologies and Design Theory.

## **Day 2 (19 March, 2008)-Inaugural Ceremony / Technical Sessions**

### **Inaugural Ceremony:**

Honorable Minister for Education and Sports Mr. Pradip Nepal was the Chief-guest of the Inaugural session. Prof. Dr. Madhav Prasad Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University chaired the Session. Er. Jeny Amatya and Er. Kaushallya Adhikari distributed Badges to dignitaries and guests. Er. Rameshwar Rijal, Chair-Local Organizing Committee SKIMA 2008, welcomed participants to the Conference. The conference was inaugurated jointly by the members of SKIMA Advisory Board-Dr. Keshav Dahal, Prof. Abdelaziz Bouras and Prof. Hongnian Yu.

Prof. Abdelaziz Bouras, member of SKIMA Advisory Board stressed the need for dissemination of outputs and findings of the researches in Information Technology.

Dr. Alamgir Hossain, Program Co-chair highlighted the objectives of **SKIMA 2008**.

Mr. Ranjan Shrestha, Representative of Head of Delegation of EU Commission to Nepal, outlined the support of EU on similar initiatives to help the institutes of Europe and Asia collaborate together.

Prof. Dr. Hom Nath Bhattarai, Vice Chancellor, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, called for more Research and Development activities in the concerned area for the sustainable development of Nepal.

Er. Saroj Devkota, Vice Chairman, High Level Commission for Information Technology, stressed the importance and relevancy of SKIMA 2008 in the wake of Constituency Assembly elections to build new Nepal.

Honorable Minister for Education and Sports Mr. Pradip Nepal, Chief-guest, encouraged participants to focus on shared issues, find creative solutions and be candid in exposing current problems. He congratulated Kantipur Engineering College for organizing such kind of international conference in Nepal. On behalf of the Ministry, he showed his eagerness to help this type of international collaborative program in future.

Prof. Dr. Madhav Prasad Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University and the Chairman of the session urged the delegates to actively participate in the conference .He concluded the Inaugural Session.

Over 200 distinguished guests, dignitaries, guests and participants were present in the ceremony.

The program was emceed by Er. Lachana Shrestacharya.

**Key Note Speech-** Managing Information and Knowledge across the Product Life Cycle- Prof. B. Gurumoorthy, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.

In his talk Prof. B. Gurumoorthy stressed the role of Product Life cycle Management (PLM) to enhance the collaboration across multiple locations, multiple domains/disciplines in order to deliver the right product at the right time and right cost. Computational framework for exchanging information / knowledge and effectively enabling capture, representation, retrieval and reuse of product knowledge was discussed.

After the Lunch break, 4 parallel Technical Sessions were held on various thematic areas.

**Technical session 1: Algorithms and Software Development**

Session chair: Prof. Basabi Chakraborty

**Technical session 2: Software Application: Supply Chain Management**

Session chair: Prof. Ajit Kumar Verma

**Technical Session 3: Software Development and Testing**

Session chair: Prof. Balan Gurumoorthy

**Technical session 4: Software Application:**

Session chair: Prof. Peter Cowling

**Day 3(20 March, 2008)**

**Key Note Speech-** Artificial Intelligence in Games-1945 to 2045- Prof. Peter Cowling, School of Informatics, University of Bradford

He gave a review on the role of AI in games - starting with the seminal work of Shannon, Turing and Samuels, and considering the triumphs of AI in creating world-champion standard players in games such as chess, checkers and Othello. Fruitfulness of collaboration among university partners, academics and games company professionals from all around the UK was emphasized.

**Technical session 5: Information Systems and Data Bases**

Session chair: Prof. Hongnian Yu

**Technical Session 6: Software Applications**

Session chair: Prof. Abdelaziz Bouras

**Technical session 7: Knowledge Management**

Session chair: Prof. Nopasit Chakpitak

**Technical session 8: Software Application: Supply Chain Management**

Session chair: Prof. Peter Cowling

**Technical session 9: Network and Wireless Applications**

Session chair: Prof. Gilles Neubert

**Technical session 10: FASTHEAD**

Session chair: Dr. Yacine Ouzrout

**Day 4(21 March, 2008)**

**Key Note Speech-** Interactive Evolutionary Computation: Evolutionary Optimization with Human Capabilities- Hideyuki Takagi, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan

This talk explored the various details of Humanized Computational Intelligence with interactive evolutionary computation. He explained the importance of designing and controlling emotional behavior of consumer and industrial robots for interactive communication.

**Technical session 11: Algorithms and Software Development**

Session chair: Dr. Keshav Dahal

**Workshop Euro-Asia**

Policies and issues for further strengthening the partnership between European and Asian institutions were discussed in this workshop.

**Key Note Speech-**Global Trends in ICT & “SKIMA-DIVIDE”-Sugat Ratna Kansakar, MD, Nepal Telecom

He explained the role of Nepal Telecom in bringing in the latest and efficient technologies to help people of the remote areas and difficult terrain communicate. He stressed the need for reducing the digital divide in a developing country like Nepal.

**Closing Ceremony:**

Closing Ceremony began with distribution of Certificate of Appreciation to paper presenters by Er. Sugat Ratna Kansakar, MD, Nepal Telecom. Members of SKIMA Secretariat, Master of Ceremony, faculty and staff of Kantipur Engineering College were also awarded with Certificate of Appreciation.

Honorable Minister for Education and Sports Mr. Pradip Nepal presented Memento to Key Note Speakers, members of SKIMA Advisory Board, General Co-chairs, and Publicity Chair. Program Co-chairs were felicitated with Memento and typical Nepali Bhadgaule Topi (cap) by the Honorable Minister.

Dr. Yacine Ouzrout, Program Co-chair presented his final remarks on **SKIMA2008**. He announced the winners of Best Paper Award. The paper “Improving Fault Resilience of Routing Protocol for Wireless Ad Hoc Networks” by Bhed Bahadur Bista, Satoshi Kamidate, Toyoo Takata, Takashi Katoh, Iwate Prefectural University, Japan won the title. He also informed that next SKIMA Conference will take place in Fez, Morocco in 2009.

Honorable Minister presented special Memento to Er. Rameshwar Rijal, Chair-Local Organizing Committee, in recognition of his diligent works in making this conference a successful international event. Honorable Minister also distributed Letter of Appointment to:

Prof. Abdelaziz Bouras, University of Lyon, France

Dr. Keshav Dahal, University of Bradford, UK

Prof. Hongnian Yu, University Of Staffordshire, UK

Prof. Dr. Nopasit Chakpitak, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Dr. Suiran Yu, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

They are invited to work as Visiting Professors at Kantipur Engineering College.

Honorable Minister in his speech expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the conference and wished all a fruitful future collaboration.

Er. Rameshwar Rijal, Chair-Local Organizing Committee expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries, distinguished guests, participants, sponsors and all others who helped to make this conference a huge success. He concluded the conference.

The ceremony was emceed by Er. Lachana Shrestacharya.

### **City Sight Seeing Tour: Festival of Colors ( Holi )**

A half day city sight seeing tour was organized for the participants and guests of the conference. It included visits to world heritage sites such as Durbar Square, Patan Durbar etc .Coincidentally the city was celebrating **Holi**-a festival of colors. Having mingled with colors everybody enjoyed this seasonal festival.

### **Social Event-Trip to Nagarkot (21-22 March, 2008)**

Based at world renowned resort Club Himalaya, SKIMA Guests and participants enjoyed breathtaking sunrise view along with spectacular panoramic view of some of the top most mountain peaks including Mt. Everest. It was a unique and delightful experience for them to trek around Nagarkot-a popular hill station among tourists and witness the nature's

beautiful scenes, forests, village community, their culture, different types of cultivations and national flower of Nepal – Rhododendron (locally- Lali Gurans).

**Sponsors:**

Main Sponsor: Nepal Telecom

Co-sponsor: Nepal Telecommunications Authority

Technical Co-sponsors: IEEE  
IEEE-IAS

**Conclusion:**

The Second International Conference on Software, Knowledge, Information Management and Applications **SKIMA 2008** was held successfully. The conference proved to be a fruitful forum to collaborate and share information, experiences and disseminate research findings among academia and the ICT industry.