Welcome from the 2011 CDC-ECC General Chair

Welcome to the Joint 50th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) and European Control Conference (ECC), held December 12–15, 2011, in Orlando, Florida. The IEEE CDC is the annual meeting of the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) while the ECC is organized every two years under the auspices of the European Union Control Association (EUCA). These conferences are conducted in cooperation with the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), and the Japanese Society for Instrument and Control Engineers (SICE).

This CDC-ECC is different. It might well be the most unique conference of its kind in our lifetime:

- This year, CDC celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- This is only the second time the CDC is held jointly with the ECC. The first was in 2005 in Seville, Spain.

To celebrate the birth of CDC and the past 50 years of its growth, and to accommodate the increased attendance of this joint CDC-ECC, the conference spans four days, starting on a Monday (by popular demand), with workshops the day before as usual. This means that we have more contributed and invited papers than usual: 22 daily parallel tracks for four days. We also have more plenary and semi-plenary sessions: one plenary and two semi-plenary sessions daily, including the Bode Lecture on the fourth day. In addition to the usual social program, this conference features a very special event: a party to celebrate CDC's 50th birthday!

This year, our conference is held at the *Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek*, Orlando, Florida. Contrary to what you might suspect, Orlando has not been anywhere near the most popular location for the CDC. In fact, since 1982, Orlando has hosted the CDC only one other time: 2001. Attendance that year was challenged by the reverberations of 9/11, just three months earlier; I remember it well because I was the Registration Chair that year. To those of you who have the impression that the 1994 CDC was held in Orlando, I will point out that, technically, the location was actually Lake Buena Vista, Florida. To be sure, Florida *is* indeed the most popular state to hold the CDC, for obvious reasons.

Putting together a conference like this relies on the hard work and dedication of many people, mostly serving behind the scenes. I am particularly grateful for the work of the CDC-ECC 2011 Operating Committee: Marios Polycarpou (Program Chair), who put together our fabulous technical program; Jay Farrell (CSS General Vice-Chair) and Eduardo Camacho (EUCA General Vice-Chair); Ragu Balakrishnan, Jakob Stoustrup, and Christos Panayiotou (Program Vice Chairs); Alessandro Astolfi (Conference Editorial Board Chair); Rajesh Rajamani (Finance Chair); Ann Rundell (Registration Chair); Rich Hull (Local Arrangements Chair); Bahram Shafai (Exhibits & Sponsorship Chair); Randy Beard (Publications Chair); Sandra Hirche (Student Activities Chair) and Hong Chen (Student Activities Co-Chair); and Laura Menini and Luca Zaccarian (Publicity Chairs). I also thank the CSS Conference Editorial Board (CEB) for

processing the approximately 2300 submissions. Alessandro Astolfi, the CEB Chair, deserves special thanks for his endless hours of poring over the details. I also thank the Technical Program Committee, consisting of about 60 members from our research community worldwide. Finally, I thank Pradeep Misra for continuing to provide invaluable help. Enjoy the conference!

Edwin K. P. Chong, General Chair, 2011 CDC-ECC