

**IEEE Conference on Decision and Control and European Control Conference
December 12 – 15, 2011, Orlando, Florida**



Invitation from the President of the IEEE Control Systems Society



On behalf of the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS), it gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome everyone to the joint IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) and European Control Conference, being held in Orlando, Florida in the United States. I would like to thank all the authors, reviewers, organizers and attendees for helping to make this a great meeting. I am sure that every attendee will enjoy the rich technical, professional and social activities offered by the organizers.

The CDC is the premier, annual, international conference on systems and control, and has a long tradition of technical excellence and outstanding organization. It is hard to believe that we are now at the 50th conference in the CDC series and there are events on the history of CDC and a celebration to mark the occasion.

This conference started in 1962, and was originally named “Discrete Adaptive Processes --- Symposium and Panel Discussion (IEEE)” (it was a part of the third Joint Automatic Control Conference). In 1970 the CSS decided to broaden the scope of the Symposium and the name “Decision and Control” was introduced.

In the first 24 years of its existence, the conference was held within the United States, even though many authors and participants were distributed worldwide. The CSS leadership fully recognized this fact and, in the early eighties, decided to periodically organize the conference outside the United States. The 25th CDC was held in Athens, Greece, in 1986. Subsequently, the CDC has been held in Brighton, England (1991), Kobe, Japan (1996), Sydney, Australia (2000), The Bahamas (2004), Seville, Spain (jointly with ECC) (2005), Cancun, Mexico (2008) and Shanghai, China (jointly with the Chinese Control

Conference)(2009). This practice enriches the conference and enhances the involvement of our international members.

The organization of a conference of this size requires a great deal of effort in advance planning, administration and operation. Please join me in warmly thanking Professor Ed Chong, General Chair, for his many efforts in vision and leadership of the conference. Amongst many others who have also made major contributions to the organization of the conference I would like to highlight Marios Polycarpou's role as program chair, and Alessandro Astolfi as chair of the conference editorial board. All the members of the Organizing and Program Committees, as well as the authors and reviewers, deserve our gratitude. The Control Systems Society continues to rely very heavily on such volunteers for running smoothly and efficiently its operations.

I strongly believe that the IEEE Conference on Decision and Control continues to accomplish its mission, which is advancing control science and technology at the highest level. I wish all the participants a successful, productive and stimulating conference.

Richard Middleton, President, IEEE Control Systems Society