Preface

Message from the General Chair

YOKOSO (Welcome) to the Twelfth International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV 2009) sponsored by the PAMI Technical Committee of the IEEE Computer Society. The main conference runs from September 29th to October 2nd 2009 at the Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan, preceded and followed by two days of workshops and tutorials at Kyoto University. In addition to these regular meetings, we have organized a special event: the Colloquium on Fundamental Advances in Computer Vision sponsored by the University of Tokyo, Columbia University, Microsoft, and Microsoft Research.

2009 started with a historic recession triggered by the so-called Lehman shock in September 2008 and saw a pandemic spread of a new type of influenza. We, the organizing members, are really happy to have as many participants as usual (as of September 1st, we have over 1200 early registrations) irrespectively of these extraordinary economic and social situations.

The award committee supervised the selection processes of The David Marr Prize sponsored by Google, The Azriel Rosenfeld Life Time Achievement Award sponsored by Omron, The Computer Vision Significant Researcher Award sponsored by Siemens, and The ICCV Test-of-Time Award. A special session is organized for the invited talks by the winners of the Azriel Rosenfeld award and the significant researcher award, following the announcement of all the ICCV awards, at the main conference. The certificates of the David Marr prize and the test-of-time award will be given at the banquet.

We are very grateful to the PAMI Technical Committee and Google for providing student travel grants and to Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Commemorative Organization for the Japan World Exposition '70, Support Center for Advanced Telecommunications Technology Research Foundation, International Information Science Foundation, HAYAO NAKAYAMA Foundation for Science & Technology and Culture, Foundation for Nara Institute of Science and Technology, and the Kyoto University Foundation for their supports in organizing the conference.

We greatly appreciate the generous corporate sponsorships given by Hitachi, Toshiba, Mitsubishi Electric, Omron, Microsoft, Microsoft Research, Fujitsu, NTT West, NTT Communications, ViewPLUS, SGI Japan, Google, and Siemens.

Last but of course not least, we would like to thank Drs. Shohei Nobuhara, Hiroaki Kawashima, Takekazu Kato, Takatsugu Hirayama, Masaaki Iiyama, Takuya Funatomi, Takahiro Koizumi, Kazuaki Kondo, Lao Shihong, Hiroshi Kage, Shintaro Watanabe, Hitoshi Habe, Tony Tung, Ikuhisa Mitsugami, Ms. Yoshie Takahara, Ms. Sayaka Magome, Ms. Kanako Obata and many students of Kyoto University for their great work to plan and manage the conference. Without their help, we could not host ICCV2009.

General Chair: Takashi Matsuyama
Message from the Program Chairs

We hope that you enjoy the ICCV 2009 program. We received 1327 complete submissions by the deadline of March 10, 2009. No extensions were given and papers that did not meet the submission guidelines were rejected prior to the review process, leaving 1238 papers remaining to the end of the review process. Controlling the review process for a large number of papers remains a challenge. Following the trend of recent conferences, we thrived to reduce the number of papers assigned to each Area Chair (AC) and to each reviewer. To that end, we assembled an AC committee of 41 vision researchers, most of whom had experience serving as AC in prior conferences. We included a coverage of the community in Asia/Oceania, America, and Europe, as well as a combination of junior and senior researchers. We distributed the paper approximately evenly across the ACs for an average load a little over 30 papers per AC. The reviews were assigned to a Program Committee of 723 researchers selected based on the ACs’ recommendations and based on the committees of previous conferences. The number of papers per reviewer was limited to 12.

After the paper deadline, the papers were distributed to the Area Chairs by the Program Chairs. The Program Chairs did not submit any paper to the conference so that they could access all the papers, reviews, and AC discussion without conflicts. Each Area Chair proposed five reviewers for each paper, out of which three assignments were selected by the software. The selection was based on the AC’s ranked preference, the maximum load of 12 papers per reviewer, and the conflict of interest issues. In cases in which a set of three reviewers could not be assigned because of complicated conflict of interest issues, for example, the assignments were decided based on discussions between the Program Chairs and the AC. The reviewers were given approximately six weeks to complete the reviews. At that point, the ACs were responsible for addressing issues such as missing or uninformative reviews and for initiating discussion with the reviewers in particular in case of highly conflicting review ratings. The authors were able to post a rebuttal during a one-week period, which was used by the ACs in further discussions with the reviewers and in generating their decisions. The double-blind style of the ICCV review process was maintained throughout the rebuttal, discussion, and consolidation stages.

The Area Chair meeting was held in Nara, Japan over a two-day period. The structure of the meeting was designed so that each paper would be evaluated by at least two ACs and that no decision would be made by a single person. The group of ACs was divided into four panels of ten ACs. In each panel, the ACs were grouped by pairs. The two ACs in each pair evaluated all of their papers. In addition, papers considered for oral presentation, or papers that required additional evaluation were discussed by the entire panel as a group. The panels were designed based on conflict of interest information, so that no AC in a given panel would be in conflict with a paper assigned to his/her panel. Accordingly, ACs were free to discuss papers with any other AC in their panel. The papers were accepted based on the consensus reached by ACs and not based on numerical targets. The committee accepted 48 papers as Orals (3.6%) and 260 as Posters (19.6 %). These acceptance rates are consistent with those of the previous conferences.

With this number of papers, the process is necessarily imperfect but we believe that it went very smoothly and led to a high-quality program. Putting together such a program relies on the hard work of the Area Chairs and the reviewers and we thank them for their service to the community. From a practical standpoint, the process relies also on a stable system for paper submission and review. We used the same system as was used in many of the prior ICCV, CVPR, and ECCV conferences. We thank Ralph Gross for making sure that the system ran reliably during the entire period from submission to decision. The AC meeting is the key to the success of the conference, given the number of ACs and the
short duration of the meeting. We would like to thank all of those responsible for the local organization of the AC meeting, Masayuki Kanbara, Hirokazu Kato, Koji Makita, Jun Takamatsu, Toshikazu Wada and Yasushi Yagi, and the student helpers, Igor Almeida, Maiya Hori, Norihiko Kawai, Hideyuki Kume, Marina Oikawa and Takafumi Taketomi. They did a superb job and they made sure that the meeting ran very smoothly.

Program Chairs: Roberto Cipolla
                Martial Hebert
                Xiaoou Tang
                Naokazu Yokoya