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IEEE SMC 2018 in Miyazaki, Japan

The 2018 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (SMC 2018) will be held 7–10 October at Seagaia Convention Center in Miyazaki, Japan. The Science Council of Japan (SCJ) and the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (SMCS) are cohosting this year's conference. The SCJ describes itself on its website as “the representative organization of the Japanese scientist community ranging over all fields of sciences subsuming humanities, social sciences, life sciences, natural sciences, and engineering” (<http://www.scj.go.jp/en/index.html>). It is our great privilege and honor to host SMC 2018 with the SCJ and the 30 Japanese scientific societies that are cooperating in the conference.

At SMC 2018, we plan to incorporate several innovative components in the program, including poster presentations, the Women in Engineering Workshop, and the Brain–Machine Interface Workshop. The conference theme is “The Making of a Human-Centered Cyber World.” We are working to provide an excellent opportunity to vigorously discuss how to make a human-centered cyber world in our rapidly changing lives by fusing artificial intelligence, big-data analysis, and the Internet of Things.

About Miyazaki

Miyazaki is a bright and sunny city. Along a beautiful beach northeast of the city stands a vast array of international resorts. The city is located in the central part of Miyazaki Prefecture and is the rail terminal city for southeastern Kyushu as well as the government and economic capital



The Takachiho gorge. (Photo courtesy of the Miyazaki Convention Bureau.)

of the prefecture. The warm weather, with an average temperature of 17 °C and 2,103 h of daylight a year, allows phoenix and palm trees to grow everywhere, giving the city the atmosphere of a bright resort.

The conference venue, Seagaia Resort, is located on Hitotsuba Beach, the northeastern part of the city. The resort has a golf course, tennis courts, a zoo, and the Seagaia Convention

Center, which provides space for international conventions.

Miyazaki Prefecture is referred to as a mythological place. It is known not only by its warm weather but also because of its mythological stories. In mythology, Miyazaki is known as the birthplace of the descendants of the gods. There are many stories that are written in the oldest Japanese extant chronicle called the *Kojiki*. Some of these tales have been made into movies, television dramas, and stage performances.

In the mythology, it is said that the father, grandfather, and great grandfather of the first emperor of Japan, Jimmu Emperor, were all born in Miyazaki from descendants of gods. Other famous stories written in the *Kojiki* describe a pond for a purification ceremony called *Misogi*, near Seagaia, Takachiho, which was the first place of the gods' descendants, Yamasachihiko and Umisachihiko at Aoshima, among others. Miyazaki hosts all of the shrines that were written about in the *Kojiki*.

In the western part of Miyazaki, there is a city called *Miyakonojo*, which is a producer of traditional bows and wooden swords. The bows have been constructed since the Heian era. Currently, its bow production is 90% of the overall traditional bow production in



A view of the Seagaia Resort, the SMC 2018 venue. (Photo courtesy of Seagaia Resort.)

Japan. This bow has been designated as a traditional craft of the country. Wooden swords have been traditional craft goods since the Edo era. They are made from oak and loquat wood, the trees of which grow naturally at the base of Mount Kirishima. Because of this environment, there are many masterpieces of judo, kendo, kyudo, and Olympic athletes from Miyazaki Prefecture.

Seagaia Resort

The Seagaia Resort is conveniently located 20 min from Miyazaki Airport. The resort is surrounded by 700 hectares of natural forests, 11 km to the north and south. The Seagaia Resort has 736 rooms with ocean views and a reputation for comfort. To reach Miyazaki, there are 15–18 airline flights each day from Tokyo Haneda (90 min), Osaka Itami (60 min), Fukuoka (40 min), and other airports. There are international flights in service from Seoul, Taipei, and Hong Kong.

The Seagaia Convention Center has 18 conference halls, including a huge hall (that accommodates up to 5,000 people), which hosted the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2000. The convention center has a secretariat, a VIP-room,

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and board-meeting venues as well as a business center. The business center can assist with all kinds of needs, including meetings, events, parties, and more. The hotel has world-class service and food, including French, Chinese, Japanese (sushi and tempura), Miyazaki beef teppanyaki, and an international buffet restaurant. Among the many other comfortable spaces are the recently opened Wing Shift Terrace and the Living Garden.

Other facilities include the activity center, fitness club, spa, hot springs, souvenir shop, convenience store, and babysitter room. An annual golf event, Dunlop Golf Tournament, is

also held at Seagaia. There are other outdoor activity facilities such as a golf practice range; a tennis academy, which has four indoor and 16 outdoor courts; a horse riding club; a bicycle rental club; gardens; a pool; and much more.

The Conference Program

The conference program consists of plenary talks, technical sessions with peer-reviewed technical papers, informative tutorials, and challenging workshops that will stimulate your academic senses. In the technical sessions, we will have many special sessions organized by the SMCS technical committees.

Even if you are not a member of the committees, submit your paper to the special sessions if your research theme is included. You may then be invited to be a member of the committee since you are active in that research area.

The quality of the conference is rising year after year, and your contribution is vital to keep our conference the best among many commonly themed conferences. Presentations and demonstrations by industries, research institutions, and universities will be held in the avenue or promenade in the conference venue. Young researchers and university students will have the opportunity to meet organizations where their skills or abilities are needed. Workshops for women in engineering, young researchers, and students will also be held during the conference.

Please note these important dates:

- ◆ special session proposals due: 23 February 2018
- ◆ paper submissions due: 31 March 2018
- ◆ tutorial and workshop proposals due: 6 April 2018.

The latest information can be found online at www.smc2018.org.