The 2019 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (SMC 2019) will be held 6–9 October 2019 in Bari, one of the most beautiful and historic cities in Southern Italy. The Bari region is nicknamed “Little California” for its nice weather. Bari’s cuisine is mostly traditional Italian, one where most dishes include local seafood and olive oil.

SMC 2019 is the flagship conference of the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (SMCS). It provides an international forum for researchers and practitioners to report updated innovations and developments, summarize state-of-the-art technology, and exchange ideas and advances in all aspects of systems science and engineering, human–machine systems, and cybernetics. Advances are important in the creation of intelligent environments that involve technologies that interact with humans to provide an enriching experience and thereby improve one’s quality of life.

A Closer Look at Bari
Bari is the capital city of the province of Bari and the Apulia region, on the Adriatic Sea in Italy. It is the second most important economic center of mainland Southern Italy after Naples, and it is well known as a port and university city as well as the city of Saint Nicholas. The city has a population of approximately 320,475 on more than 116 km² (45 mi²) of land, while the fast-growing urban area is home to 653,028 inhabitants and encompasses more than 203 km² (78 mi²). The metropolitan area is home to one million people.

Bari is made up of four different urban sections. To the north is the closely built old town on the peninsula between two modern harbors, with the Basilica of Saint Nicholas, the Svevo, and the Cathedral of San Sabino (1035–1171). It also hosts the Hohenstaufen Castle built for Frederick II, which is now a major nightlife district. To the south is the Murat quarter (erected by Joachim Murat), the modern heart of the city. It is laid out on a rectangular grid-plan with a promenade on the sea and the major shopping district (the via Sparano and via Argiro).

Bari is home to two universities: the University of Bari, which focuses on the arts, sciences, mathematics, social sciences, literature, medicine, and law; and the Polytechnic University of Bari, which is a state technological university that shapes architects, engineers, and industrial designers.

Modern residential zones surround the center of Bari. This is the result of chaotic development during the 1960s and 1970s that replaced the old suburbs that had developed along roads splaying outward from gates in the city walls. The outer suburbs have developed rapidly during the 1990s. The pace of life is dominated by the rhythms of work, especially commerce, its main source of wealth. Due to its focus on commerce, there are shops and stores of every kind in Bari.

Bari’s cuisine, one of Italy’s most traditional and noteworthy, is based on three typical agricultural products found within the surrounding Puglia region, including wheat, olive oil, and wine. Bari, being the capital of an important fishing area, offers a range of fresh fish and seafood, often eaten raw. Octopus, sea urchins, and mussels are heavily featured in many eateries. Bari’s most famous dish may be the oven-baked patate riso e cozze (potatoes with rice and mussels).

Regional Attractions
Bari is the capital of the Apulia region. Also known as Le Puglie in the plural form, this region comprises many unique aspects. The “heel of Italy’s boot,” Apulia is a charming

IEEE SMC 2019 in Bari, Italy

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region that can be visited year-round and is home known for its nature, history, tradition, tastes, and spirituality.

Apulia is an enchanting region that spreads lengthwise along the sea with marvelous beaches that will delight every traveler, from the sandy Torre dell’Orso and Porto Cesario to the rocky, boulder-encrusted Riviera of Otranto and Santa Maria di Leuca. At Santa Maria di Leuca, the calm and crystalline waters of the Ionian Sea mix with those of the intense, azure Adriatic. Sea lovers have multiple options in Apulia, from Gallipoli, the "Gem of Salento," to Gargano, "Italy’s Buttress," which protrudes out into the clear sea, where one can find the beautiful Tremiti Islands.

Nature abounds again in Murgia National Park and Gargano’s wild Umbra forest, with its salt pans and lakes. Visit the marine reserve of Torre Guaceto and the deep ravines of Laterza and wide dolines of Altamura that characterize the hinterland of the region with their charming landscapes.

For those who want to travel through history, Apulia offers a wide range of places that testify to the ancient origins of this land: from prehistory to Magna Graecia, from the Imperial Age to the Renaissance and the Baroque splendor of Lecce and of Salento. There are many churches and cathedrals in Apulia, which underline the artistic and historical development of the region. The many people who lived and prospered here from the Lombards and Byzantines to the Normans and Swabians have left wonderful cathedrals, sanctuaries, and churches.

In the heart of Apulia, the Itria valley is a charming blend of rolling hills and valleys, populated by trulli and farmsteads, one of the most beautiful landscapes in Apulia or anywhere in Italy. The Itria valley is a unique place where towns such as Alberobello, Martina Franca, Locorotondo, Cisternino, and Ostuni provide impressive images, evoking the true essence of this wonderful region. The trulli limestone dwellings, found in the southern region of Apulia, are remarkable examples of drywall construction, a prehistoric building technique still in use in this region. They are listed as United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites.

Matera astonishes visitors with its extraordinary past full of history, art, culture, and landscapes. The ditched villages of the Murgia Plateau and its archeological heritage evoke the permanent presence of mankind from the Stone Age up to present times. The town has more than 100 rock-hewn churches, revealing Latin and Byzantine frescoes, inspired by the mysticism of solitary monks and embodied in religious art. Matera is the town of the Sassi, the ancient quarters that, shrouded in archaic charm, are an example of an incomparable urban structure; Sassi and the facing Murgia Plateau are now inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, a patrimony belonging to all mankind.

**Conference Theme: Industry 4.0**

Industry 4.0 is the fourth industrial revolution that is influencing the new trends of automation, system sciences, and cyberphysical systems. Industry 4.0 has the objective of creating smart factories where cyberphysical systems monitor physical processes, decentralized controllers monitor and manage the systems, and the Internet of Things (IoT) communicate and cooperate with each other and with humans in real time and via the IoT services.

The conference will offer a great opportunity to exchange new results and challenges about modern information and communication technologies, the IoT, big data, and cloud computing with the objective of increasing productivity within various industrial sectors. The general chairs are Maria Pia Fanti from Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy, and Mengchu Zhou from New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark.

**SMC 2021 in Australia**

Melbourne, Australia, will host the 2021 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (SMC 2021). With a very strong proposal from Team Australia, the conference will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center (MCEC) in the beautiful city of Melbourne in Victoria. October is spring in Melbourne, and the climate is characterized by low rainfall and plenty of sunshine, with an average temperature of approximately 20 °C (67 °F). Melbourne has an outstanding track record of success for securing and
hosting some of the world’s largest and most prestigious international conferences.

Melbourne has become the first major city in the Southern Hemisphere—and only the third major city in the world—to be recognized as a “Safe City” by the World Health Organization. On international indexes, Australia’s political system is rated as very transparent with strong levels of protection for people’s political rights.

Economically, Australia is very secure, with a AAA credit rating. The country consistently ranks high on the Index of Economic Freedom, where it is currently fourth in the world. The Australian currency is highly stable, and, due to there being no restrictions on foreign entities transacting in the Australian dollar, it is the fifth most traded in the world.

Located on the south bank of the Yarra River and just a 20-min walk from the city center is the MCEC, Australia’s largest and most versatile convention and exhibition facility. Visitors looking for an experience true to Melbourne will find it here at the center—art, entertainment, culture, food, and wine—all encapsulated by outstanding, award-winning architectural design. As the world’s first six-star, green-star environmentally rated convention center, MCEC continuously raises standards in technology and sustainability, and it sets the benchmark for venue service.

Melbourne is the perfect walking city, but there are ample public transport options for groups to explore the city and Docklands. The free City Circle tourist tram travels the perimeter of Melbourne’s city center and passes many landmarks. Delegates can catch the tram at any of the specially marked stops and take advantage of the onboard commentary describing some of Melbourne’s best attractions.

SMC 2021 is strongly supported by a team of international SMCS volunteers and experts. The event is locally supported by the IEEE SMCS Victorian Chapter, Deakin University, and several other universities both in Victoria and in other regions of Australia. The team is led by Saeid Nahavandi, SMCS Victorian Chapter general chair and professor at Deakin University.