Report from the ICPR Standing Committee
to IAPR Governing Board

Barcelona, 20/10/2008
Report from the ICPR SC to IAPR GB

**Members of the ICPR Standing Committee (2006-2008)**

The people who belonged to the ICPR SC during this period were:

- Juanjo Villanueva (Chair)
- Josef Kittler
- Takeo Kanade
- Chung Li
- Maria Vanrell
- ExCo liaison: Walter Kropatsch

**Objectives of the ICPR Standing Committee (ICPR SC)**

ICPR is the most important event organized by IAPR. In order to minimize the shortcomings of the organization, IAPR created the ICPR Standing Committee (ICPR SC). The objectives for ICPR SC during this first period, corresponding to the organization of the ICPR’08, were: a) To monitor the process of the ICPR organization; b) To write a set of guidelines for the ICPR organization; c) To collaborate with the Conference & Meeting Committee; and d) To propose changes of the IAPR Bylaws created by the introduction of this new Committee.

**Monitoring ICPR**

Because ICPR changes each time the place, organizers are not experienced in ICPR organization. It is necessary that the IAPR, through the ICPR SC, controls the ICPR organization process. The main points to be considered are:

- To monitor the ICPR organization.
- To help the ICPR organizers with the process.
- To act as the IAPR speaker for the ICPR organizers.
- To receive updated information from the ICPR organizers, following a schedule of deliverables.
- To keep informed the IAPR ExCo through the ExCo liaison.
- Only in case of hard conflict between ICPR SC and IO, the level of decision will be the ExCo.

During the period of the ICPR2008 organization, the contact with the organizers was fluid. Professor Kasturi sent to the ICPR SC the information required, like contracts with providers and updated budgets.

During the entire period only one important problem appeared when the number of inscriptions was lower than the break even. Prof. Kasturi informed about it to ICPR SC. Fortunately, the subsequent inscriptions
almost solved the problem. However, the border line to the break even can be critical and an analysis of the causes of this trouble would not be out of place. Maybe some causes could be the dates (Christmas time), the amount of conferences or the economical crisis.

**Write guidelines for the organization of ICPR Conference**

In order to have written rules for the ICPR monitoring, the ICPR SC planned to write a set of guidelines. These guidelines should be redacted by the ICPR SC and eventually accepted (in case) by the ExCo. Finally, the guidelines would be approved (in case) by the GB. The guidelines would be updated with the experience of each ICPR. Maybe a subset of these guidelines can be used for sponsored conferences. The main points to be considered were:

- To create a writing team inside of ICPR SC
- To propose a general outline to ExCo
- To define a calendar with the milestones
- To define a set of standard forms for deliverables and budget

The ICPR SC nominated a team formed by Maria Vanrell and Chun-Hung Li in order to create a document of guidelines. Maria Vanrell began to work over a first draft based on the IEEE Conference Organization Manual. However, in parallel the C&M SC did a very good document about ICPR organization guidelines. So, ICPR SC stopped the draft and participated in the C&M SC guidelines sending several comments to the document. For example, one of the comments was the convenience to create a spreadsheet with a standard budget for comparing the results among different ICPR’s.

**Collaboration with the Conference & Meeting Standing Committee**

Because it is necessary to clearly define the responsibilities of the C&M Standing Committee and the ICPR-SC, collaboration between both committees is essential. The main points considered were:

- The C&M SC would have the responsibility in front of ExCo for candidatures till one of them is approved by the Governing Board.
- The Organization Committee people would be included in candidatures.
- The ICPR SC would have the responsibility in front of ExCo after the candidature acceptation.

During this period both Standing Committees interchanged information and collaborations.
Changes of the IAPR Bylaws

The creation of the new ICPR Standing Committee implied to change some points of the IAPR Bylaws. Bylaws SC proposed the corresponding changes in the bylaws in order to present them in the next meeting of the GB.

“14.10 The ICPR Standing Committee shall act to ensure continuity in the organization process of future conferences and monitor upcoming conferences on behalf of IAPR. Past organizers of ICPR will be among the members of this committee.”

Some final recommendations

ICPR is the most important event of IAPR. The future of the IAPR will be related with the ICPR one. ICPR SC thinks that it is necessary to discuss about the future of ICPR in the next 10/15 years.

The amount of conferences in our area is increasing year by year. However, few of them are leader in this field. People try to publish their best papers only in the first class conferences. Universities and public agencies fund attendants and select CV’s taking into account these first tiers conferences. Unfortunately, following several international rankings, ICPR is not one of them.

However, ICPR could change several features in order to reach this first level. To increase the quality of accepted papers or the number of pages per paper or to concentrate on few tracks, for example, could be discussed. Of course, it is necessary to consider the consequences of the changes on the number of attendants, the budget or the complexity of the review process, for example.