

Travel Report: RTCSA07 in Daegu, Korea

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A Travel Report in four "C" headings.

1 The Cause

The IEEE RTCSA conference is one of the leading conferences for Real-Time Systems, usually located in Asia. Many Asian researchers go to this conference, but also many Europeans and Americans participate. Me and my co-authors decided to submit our paper about a scalability approach for distributed real-time databases, "Virtual Full Replication by Adaptive Segmentation", and the paper was accepted as a full paper at the conference. A trip from Europe to Korea is quite expensive, compared to a trip to the US or a trip within Europe, why I applied for ARTES mobility support for this trip. The paper was finalized during my five-month visit in 2007 to University of Virginia, a visit that was co-financed by another grant from ARTES mobility support, and for which another Travel Report is available at ARTES.

2 The Country

The people in Korea seem to be very polite. The usual greeting when you meet unknown people is to quietly bow your head, not saying 'Hello', 'How are you?' or similar. In places that offer any kind of service, like hotels, shopping centers and at the railway, there are always employees just waiting to greet you. There is no tipping, but instead all service fees are included.

Korea develops very fast. In the conference I talked to a Korean man who lives in the US, and he claimed that the country changes every year. The country is densely populated, and it seems that many people in urban areas live in small flats in high buildings.

RTCSA07 was held in Daegu, in the south-east of Korea, and with high-speed train it's only 2 hours from Seoul in the north-west. The railway system seems very well organized in Korea, and fares are reasonable.

3 The Conference

The conference was held in a large conference center, "Hotel Inter-Burgo", large enough to host other conferences as well during the week, as well as wedding parties and a fashion show. This conference center has two different hotel buildings and offers as much as twelve different restaurants.

This year RTCSA offered three different tracks: Real-Time Systems, Ubiquitous Computing, and Embedded Systems. The track sessions were organized into two concurrent sessions, while the Keynote and Invited sessions were in common.

Many interesting papers were presented at the conference. Resource scheduling is still a popular subject in the real-time community. With the advent of multi-core processor a whole new branch of the subject has developed. This includes new scheduling approaches for processes, and new models for memory management. Power management is getting more important, and in particular for limited processors, such as used in wireless sensors. Being a real-time conference, RTCSA'07 also included presentations about analysis of real-time systems, distribution and collaboration, middleware and integration issues, fault tolerance approaches, and also had one session on real-time databases. Several papers in the conference had work connected to the medical domain.

At the Banquet, the Director of display applications at Samsung gave a long talk about the background and the upcoming technologies they intend to use. Much of it is about personalized media, both for tailored media consumption, but also for creation of personal content. Samsung is highly respected as a company in Korea, and the people seem very proud of having such a major consumer electronics company in the country.

At the last evening, conference participant could choose from a number of tours around Daegu. I went to the national museum and to a Buddhist temple area. We also had a visit to a cave with a Buddha statue, and finally a traditional Korean meal with many, many dishes.

4 The Conclusion

The RTCSA of 2007 was very nicely located and contained many interesting papers. It is an important conference to visit, if you regard yourself a part of the real-time community. Quite a few of the RTCSA visitors also went to the ECRTS real-time conference in Pisa, Italy, a month before this conference. I am happy to have presented my work at this conference, and I am also very satisfied with the feedback I got.

(Pictures are available at
<http://picasaweb.google.com/gunnarmathiason/20070823DaeguRTCsa07>)