

## **Travel Report from MPSoC'05**

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### **Introduction**

The 5th International Forum on Application-Specific Multi-Processor SoC (MPSoC'05) took place in Relais de Margaux, France from 11 to 15 July 2005. The forum was organised by Ahmed Terraya, Techniques of Informatics & Microelectronics for Computer Architecture (TIMA) Laboratory, France, Hannu Tenhunen, School of Information Technology, KTH, Sweden and Wayne Wolf, Department of Electrical Engineering, Princeton University, USA. The forum serves as summer school for PhD students in SoC related research and discussion platform for industrial researchers in the field. This year's edition was sponsored by European Design & Automation Association and the IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Circuits & Systems Society and IEEE Council on Electronic Design Automation. I attended the Summer School with a colleague, Niklas Lepistö.

### **The Forum**

The forum started with two keynote speeches, "**Digital Media: The New Frontier for Supercomputing**" by Lisa Su, IBM, USA and "**Nomadik: an MPSoC Solution for Advanced Multimedia**" by Alian Artieri, STMicroelectronics, France. There were tutorial sessions on Hardware and Software Challenges in MPSoC. Afterwards there were twelve technical sessions and two business sessions on MPSoC-related issues. The technical sessions focused on hardware/ software programming models and their applications in SoC/ MPSoC, design methods and tools and their applications to SoC, MPSoC and network-on-chip (NoC). My interest in this forum is the focus on hardware development and multimedia applications. The most informative contribution I received at this edition of the forum was the presentations on the IBM Cell Architecture.

### **The Summer School**

At the summer school I met other PhD students. We interacted and discussed many issues, share ideas and exchange addresses. During the coffee sessions discussed politics, culture differences, issues relating to international securities and of course MPSoC research issues. We enjoyed the swimming pool, took pictures and explored the city on bicycles.

### **Conclusions**

It was exciting to be able to dine and wine with the leading researchers in my field. Reading their publications is very informative and educating. But much more than that is to be able to listen to them in a relax atmosphere and be able to discuss the key issues of their research. The summer school provided the opportunity while the French hospitality provided the most conducive platform. There was more than enough wine! It was difficult to disagree with the saying "When in Rome do like the Romans". I had to drink wine like the French while I was in Margaux. To complete the forum we were taken to a wine brewery where we were taught the art of application-specific wine brewing!