

Travel Report from FPL'05

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Introduction

During 24-26 August I attended the International conference on Field Programmable Logic and Applications (FPL), which is the first and largest conference focused on programmable logic. This year the conference took place in the city of Tampere in Finland and was hosted by the Institute of Digital and Computer Systems of Tampere University of Technology. The venue of the conference was Tampere Hall, a conference centre that was claimed to be the largest one in the northern countries. Tampere Hall was conveniently located, just a few hundred metres from our hotel. Tampere seemed to be a very nice city, especially at night with all the lights and the river flowing through the city. I got some really nice photos.

The conference

The conference lasted for three days and had three parallel sessions. There were also four poster sessions during the conference. Totally 128 papers were presented, many the presentations were in some way related to my area of interest which often made it difficult to choose which session to attend. A keynote presentation with the title “Computing Platform Requirements for Future Mobile Devices” was given by Misha Burich from Altera describing the possibilities with current FPGA technology and design tools. During the last day Peter Alfke from Xilinx gave a tutorial presentation on recent progress and future trends of FPGA technology which complemented the keynote in a great way.

The First day my colleague Najeem Lawal presented his paper on “Address Generation for FPGA RAMs for Efficient Implementation of Real-Time Video Processing Systems”.

Generally the conference had many interesting presentations, several presentations involved use of the Handel-C design language which I was very unfamiliar with. The most useful presentation for me was a poster presentation on an instruction set extension for the Xilinx Microblaze Processor.

Representatives from different FPGA and design tool vendors, such as Xilinx, Altera, Synopsys and Mentor Graphics were present during the poster sessions which resulted in many interesting discussions; I also had the chance to find out more about Handel-C from Celoxica, who were there to display their design tools.