Travel report by
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1 The Conference

The RTCSA 2003 took place at National Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan, February 18-20, 2003. The first day of the conference there were a panel debate about Systen on Chip (SoC) and Challenges to Next Generation Embedded Systems. During the conference there were three interesting keynote speeches that addressed the embedded computing and SoC area. Everyone of the speakers agreed on that this is an very interesting topic and will very soon be the approach for developing software and hardware in consumer electronics products. The most valuable input from the keynote speeches was how the industry were thinking of software/hardware development today and in the future.

The majority of the contributions to conference covered the real-time scheduling area. Other areas that were covered was networks and communication, tools and development, pervasive/ubiquitous computing, embedded systems/environments, systems and architecture, performance analysis, resource management and file systems and databases. However because of that the conference was organized with parallel sessions and there were interesting talks in both session it was difficult to cover the conference. Here is some examples of presented papers that I found interesting and that have relevance to my research:
On Soft Real-Time Guarantees on the Ethernet, Min-gyu Cho et al.
Software Platform for Embedded Software Development, Win-Bin See
Extracting Temporal Properties from Real-Time Systems by Automatic Trace Analysis, A. Terrasa et al.

On Wednesday, before lunch, I presented the paper Testing of Multi-Tasking Real-Time Systems with Critical Sections and my feelings was that my presentation were acceptable. This was my first talk at a conference, although I have been presenting a paper at a workshop (RTES01) at Real-Time Systems Symposium 2001.

2 Tainan, The City

Wednesday afternoon there were a organized excursion with a city tour, bird watching and a visit to a salt mountain. The city tour was very interesting we visited some famous castles. We were told that Taiwan have been occupied many times by many different empires for example the Japanese, the Chinese and the Dutch.

The city of Tainan was very crowded, and there were swarms of scoters everywhere I have never seen so many scooters in my whole life. Despite the hectic traffic in the city we didn't see any accidents and fortunately we manage to cross all streets without being injured ourself.

We also eat a lot of good food, but no one of us dared to try the thousand years egg.