

Travel Report from APPSEM05

Johan Erikson
Department of Computer Science and Electronics
Mälardalen University
johan.erikson@mdh.se

APPSEM (<http://www.tcs.informatik.uni-muenchen.de/mhofmann/appsem2/>) is a thematic network funded by the IST program of the European Union. Its objective is to promote research into application-oriented semantics of programming languages. This years workshop on applied semantics, APPSEM'05, was held 12-15 September 2005 in Germany, and was located at the island of Frauenchiemsee, in the Lake Chiemsee. The geographical location of Lake Chiemsee is approximately right in the middle of Munich and Salzburg. The workshop, as well as its participants, was hosted by the sisters of the Benediktinerorden in their abbey.

Frauenchiemsee is a rather small island, you could easily walk around it in 15 minutes. But despite the size of the island, there was a lot of tourists coming to it, and I think there were 3 or 4 restaurants and a number of "Biergartens" on the island, as well as some souvenir stores. The main attraction is probably the above mentioned abbey though.

The reason for my trip was to present the paper titled "Two Formal Semantics for PLEX", which was authored together with my supervisor (B. Lisper). The paper was presented in a special session devoted to applications of semantics in industrial applications/problems.

As usual (?) there was a mix between interesting, and not so interesting, talks as well as some invited talks. Among the invited speakers were Chris Hankin (program analysis), and Joy Stoy (Bluespec) who talked about how the company had "hidden" semantic technology in their design tool in order to get it accepted by people not familiar (or sceptical) to semantics . . .

My overall impression is that it was a very well organized conference at a very pleasant location, even if took quite some time to get there; my flight departed from Stockholm at 10:45 and I arrived at the abbey somewhere around 18:30 . . . I met a lot of interesting people at the conference, both Phd-students and senior researchers, and the discussions during the meals, coffee breaks, etc. was about all kinds of different subjects such as lambda calculus, protocol specification, German beer, and comics (Tintin and Asterix :-)