The CIEES 2020 Conference Chair’s Preface

Welcome to the International Scientific Conference of Communications, Information, Electronic and Energy Systems – CIEES 2020. The goal of the CIEES 2020 conference is to provide an international forum for researchers, academics, people in industry, and students to address recent research results and to present and discuss their ideas, theories, technologies, systems, tools, applications, work in progress and experiences on all theoretical and practical issues arising in telecommunications, electronics, signal processing and applications, information technologies and energy.

CIEES 2020 is scheduled to be held on 26 – 29 November, 2020 in Borovets, Bulgaria. The year of 2020 has been unprecedented with the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting our life. Due to the recent coronavirus outbreak, the Organizing Committee and the CIEES 2020 Program Committee, saw that it would not have been possible to hold CIEES 2020 in November in person, we decided to turn CIEES 2020 in a virtual format – online conference on the same period. The health and safety of the participants involved in CIEES 2020 is our priority. We all know that the value of CIEES is not only in listening to the papers, but in the networking, the face-to-face interactions, the exchange of ideas, also the gathering in the social events. Many things are changing and our perceptions are different these days. It may happen that we have to rethink the way we are used to organize the conferences.

The International Scientific Conference of Communications, Information, Electronic and Energy Systems – CIEES 2020 was held from November 26 to 28, 2020 virtually in Ruse, Bulgaria, organized by the Association CIEES. The partners of the conference were the University of Ruse (Bulgaria), Politehnica University of Bucharest (Romania), University “Vasile Alecsandri” of Bacau (Romania), Union of Scientists in Ruse (Bulgaria) and Encon Services Ltd (Bulgaria).

The technical program of this year’s edition of the conference consists of two distinguished keynotes by world renowned experts with their lecture as following: Prof. Dr. Renato Filjar of Croatia, title of the lecture “Resilient satellite navigation empowers modern science, economy, and society”, and Prof. Dr. Goran T. Djordjevic of Serbia, title of the lecture “Performance of free-space optical systems in the presence of receiver imperfections”.

All authors prepared a video presentation up to 12 minutes that were played on stream with authors participating in the discussion during the session. All of the video presentation are available on the conference YouTube channel. The conference programme consists of 5 tracks: Telecommunications, Information Technologies, Electronics, Energy and Renewable Sources and Smart Farming. We are open 10 sessions, some of them in parallel. The time spent to deliver the video presentation by each speaker was 10 - 12 minutes. The maximum time slot for presentation and Q&A was 15 minutes. Questions were asked in the chat section of the zoom channel or by raised hand when the video presentation is finished. All Q&A were made at face-to-face in the Zoom channel, between the CIEES Host (technical moderator), Session Chair and participants. The Organizers provided to all participants a virtual room named CIEES 2020 Virtual Lounge Area, to continue the discussion outside the sessions.
The research track attracted submission from 187 distinct authors from 14 countries spanning four continents. Submissions were rigorously reviewed by an International Scientific Committee and external reviewers. A total of 190 reviews were provided, with each paper receiving at least two reviews. During the discussion phase, International Scientific Committee members and the Programme Committee members discussed the reviews in detail. The rebuttals from the authors were also seriously considered. For consistency across tracks, final decisions on papers were made at the face-to-face Programme Committee meeting between the Organizing Committee chairs and the Programme Committee chairs.

During the online conference, we used Zoom Meeting platform for opening ceremony, all conference sessions and meetings. In advance the Conference Organizing Committee of CIEES 2020 organized a test sessions for participants, Conference chairs and plenary lecturers. The Zoom Meeting platform permissions to 100 person in the one session, record all events, open more session in the same time, chatting, rise hand and the CIEES 2020 technical moderator (host), sessions chair (chair) and co-chair (co-host) have been manage it.

This year's CIEES 2020 conference has received a record high number of submissions 115 abstracts and 95 full papers submitted. After a single-blind review process were accepted 55 papers (57.9% acceptance rate) for presentation as full papers at the conference. The decision to accept a paper was entirely based on quality and not its length.

We are thankful to all the people that helped us for organizing the conference. In particular, special thanks to Prof. Dr. Iliya Iliev from Bulgaria, Prof. Dr. Renato Filjar from Croatia, the Conference Chairs, the Program Committee members, the authors and the reviewers for their hard work, efforts and expertise in making a successful technical program. Without them, this event would have never happened.

Finally, we gratefully to all members of the International Scientific Committee, for providing insightful guidelines and support in preparing and organizing the conference, and for the highly professional work done on all aspects of the local organization of the Conference.

We also record our sincere gratitude to our publishing partner IOP Publishing, United Kingdom for their collaboration and full cooperation.

CIEES is an annual conference. For more information about this year conference and the upcoming conferences, please visit the conference website: http://ciees.eu.

We are looking forward to the next International Scientific Conference of Communications, Information, Electronic and Energy Systems – CIEES 2021 that will be held on November 2021 in Ruse, Bulgaria. We will enjoy together not only the conference but also the special “light” of city of Ruse and the wonderful view of the Danube River.

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