

Message from the General Chair and the Program Chairs

Thank you for participating in ICAT 2008, the 18th International Conference on Artificial Reality and Telexistence. On behalf of the ICAT Organizing Committee, we wish to offer you our warmest welcome to the conference in this exciting field of virtual reality and telexistence.

ICAT was started in 1991 in Japan, and is one of oldest international conferences on areas related to virtual reality. After the first decade, in which ICAT was held only in Japan, ICAT was held outside of Japan, ICAT 2000 in Taiwan, ICAT 2004 in Korea, ICAT 2005 in New Zealand, ICAT 2006 in China, and ICAT 2007 in Denmark. This shows how the research fields addressed by ICAT have been growing globally, and are spreading into broader areas.

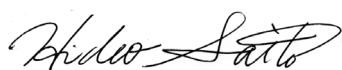
This year's ICAT 2008 is being held in Japan after four excellent years of being organized outside of Japan. We are very happy to have ICAT 2008 co-located with ACE 2008 (ACM International Conference on Advances in Computer Entertainment Technology) in a brand new building of Keio University, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The collaboration of ICAT 2008 with ACE 2008 allows you to enjoy both conferences starting on December 3, 2008, on which we have two keynote talks, a special session related to food entertainment, and the most important event: the banquet in the Yokohama-Bay area. We would like to thank all the organizing members of ICAT 2008 and ACE 2008 for their efforts in organizing the two co-located conferences. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to Azusa Tanaka who served as committee secretary.

In the organization of the technical program, we received 63 full paper submissions. Based on peer review, 31 papers were accepted as full papers with oral presentations. After that, we also received submissions of short papers, and then accepted 30 short papers with poster presentations based again on peer review. We also accepted demo presentations. The topic of the presentations covers a wide range of areas related to Artificial Reality and Telexistence. We would like to express our gratitude to the members of the program committee for their great efforts in dealing with the review of


submitted papers under a very tight schedule.

We also have four distinguished keynote speeches including one presented by the general chair of the next ICAT 2009. We believe that the excitement of ICAT 2008 will be conveyed and extended in the next year.

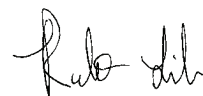
We hope all participants of ICAT 2008 and ACE 2008 will explore and discover the interesting variety of aspects of related fields, while enjoying the beautiful city of Yokohama.



Hideo Saito
Keio University



Yasuyuki Yanagida
Meijo University



Robert W. Lindeman
Worcester Polytechnic Institute