

WORKSHOP ON SENSOR NETWORKS

In February 2006, the third European Workshop on wireless sensor networks (EWSN) was held at ETH Zurich. About 200 researchers from Europe and all over the world met to discuss the latest results and developments in this fast growing research area.

EWSN 2006 was a truly international event - of the 133 full paper submission received this year, about 40% originated from Europe, while 38% and 20% were received from Asia and the Americas, respectively.

The technology becomes mature

Besides regular paper sessions, this year's EWSN featured a number of additional activities. Two tutorials were offered on data management and algorithmic aspects of sensor networks. Prof. Karl Aberer, director of the NCCR-MICS, delivered a keynote that covered, among others, recent achievements in MICS and the application potential of sensor networks in the Swiss context.

An exhibition with 30 technology

demonstrators and posters offered the opportunity to get in touch with the authors and developers directly.

A large number of sensor node platforms were demonstrated, illustrating the fact the sensor network technology is getting mature. Co-organized by the European Commission, a special session on European research projects related to sensor networks provided a good overview of the various activities in this domain in the 6th Framework Programme and the opportunities for research in the forthcoming 7th Framework Programme.

Monitoring animal diseases

Finally, there was a special session related to the «Sentient Future Competition», which sets out to explore applications of sensor networks in a time frame of ten years. The contest was organized by Embedded Wisents - a Coordination Action in the 6th Framework Programme - and sponsored by Deutsche Telekom T-Labs.

Out of the 80 submissions received, the three best entries were selected by a committee of experts in the field. The winners were awarded and presented their ideas during the special session at EWSN. The winning submission explores the

use of sensor networks to detect and monitor the spreading of animal diseases - a very timely topic considering the current issues with the bird's flu. In addition, seven highly commended entries were presented by the authors during a poster session.

EWSN 2007 will be held at the Technical University of Delft in The Netherlands at the end of January 2007.

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