

# SCIENTIFIC EVENT

## ASI'97 Conference (Advanced Summer Institute)

**Budapest, Hungary, July 14-18, 1997**

The scientific Network of Excellence on **Advanced Methodologies and Tools of Manufacturing Systems (AMETMAS-NOE)** aims to group research teams from both academic and industrial environments with common long term technological goals, and to co-ordinate their research as well as their training policy closely.

The **ASI conference** is an event in its prime and is organised every year, with a view at stimulating contacts of researchers who are active in the area of **Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIME)** and **Integration in Manufacturing (IiM)** from the EU member countries or from Central and East European countries.

The ASI Conference series was launched in Greece in 1994. The three previous conferences were held in Rion Patras (1994), Cascais, Portugal (1995) and Toulouse, France (1996).

This fourth conference was organized by the Laboratory for Automation and Robotics, Department of Electrical Engineering of the University of Patras, in co-operation with the CIM Laboratory of Computer and Automation Institute, Budapest, and was sponsored by ESPRIT AMETMAS-NOE, a Network of Excellence funded by the EU INCO-COPERNICUS program.

In this year, the main orientation of the conference was on presentations covering the principal aspects of **Life Cycle Approaches to Production Systems**.

The Organizing Committee (Professor P.P. Groumpos, University of Patras, and Professor George Kovacs, Computer and Automation Institute, Budapest as general chairmen), succeeded in their efforts to offer to more than 120 participants a varied scientific program, ranging from regular contributed papers and invited sessions to plenary overview meetings.

A good deal of the contributed papers dealt with applications.

The conference opening speeches were delivered by Professor Peter P.Groumpos from the University of Patras, and Professor George Kovacs and Professor Istvan Nagy, both from Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Two plenary papers followed:

- "Revival of High-Tech Industry in Hungary", by Professor L. Nyiri, President of Hungary's National Committee for Technological Development;
- "New ways of working in the information society", by Professor G. Metakides, Director of DG III/RTD : IT, ESPRIT.

The Scientific Programme of the conference also included:

- ⇒ 12 technical sessions
- ⇒ 4 AMETMAS sessions
- ⇒ 3 special sessions

The 19 parallel contributed sessions of the conference were centred on the following topics:

- Control Optimisation
- Special sessions IIMB I, II
- Enterprise Modelling and Benchmarking
- Modelling and Simulation of Manufacturing Systems I, II
- Issues of Modern Manufacturing Engineering
- Intelligent Control and Automation
- Co-operation in IT in Manufacturing
- Modern Manufacturing Concepts

- Robust Control
- Safety and Maintenance
- Robotics
- Data Mining in Manufacturing Environments, a special session organised by NIKEL-IRL
- ICT in Engineering
- Environmentally Benign Production

The presented papers showed a very good combination of methodology and practice, of mathematics and engineering, of concrete and conceptual ideas. High-level communications and high-efficiency presenters were not few.

The Conference Programme also included a panel discussion on "Benefits of Transnational Partnerships to Fabrication" with panelists from large industrial companies (Imperial Chemical Industries, AEROSPACE, BAAN), who captured the interest of the audience. The prospects of international co-operation, with clear effects and benefits for all partners involved and mainly for those coming from Central and East European countries, made the focal point of discussion. It was generally agreed on that technology transfer played a major role in providing high qualification.

The Conference was also a good opportunity for all participants to establish contacts and evaluate future co-operation areas. Large realisation potential was shown by such projects as "Know-how Transfer, part of Technological Transfer" (Co-ordinated by LAR Patras, Greece), or "IT Tools for Enterprise Engineering: Modelling, Integration and Infrastructure Design" (co-ordinated by TU Chemnitz, Germany).

On this occasion AMETMAS-NOE co-ordinators held a lucrative meeting where several decisions were made with impact upon future co-operation:

- ⇒ extension of the network by including new associated partners, especially industrial background, with significant results in the field of advanced industrial informatics;
- ⇒ continuing the line of presentations of AMETMAS-NOE partners in the **ICIMS NEWS (Intelligent Control and Integrated Manufacturing Systems)**;
- ⇒ popularisation of doctoral theses that are of interest to the AMETMAS-NOE field of activity.

At the closing of the Conference, all participants shared feelings of warm appreciation for the organizers who offered them a wonderful opportunity to share opinions and learn from each other at a high-level scientific reunion.

The **ASI'98 Conference** will be held in Bremen, Germany.

### Theodor Balan

**Theodor Balan** graduated in Control Engineering from the Polytechnical Institute of Bucharest in 1976. Since 1980 he has been working at the Process Control Laboratory, Research Institute for Informatics, Bucharest. Currently he is preparing a Ph.D thesis at the "Politehnica" University of Bucharest. His research interests are in process modelling and simulation, advanced techniques for process control. He is currently doing research and project management in the area of process modelling and simulation using fuzzy techniques. He is author/co-author of one book and over 30 technical papers.