

PCaPAC 2008 Evaluation report

The Numbers

We received 71 filled in feedback forms. On the scale from 1 to 4 (1 – Very bad, 2 – Bad, 3 – Good, 4 – Very good), the participants were assessing the organisation and the content:

*How would you rate the **organization** of the PCaPAC 2008 (logistics, side activities, venue, communication ...)?*

Average score: 3.73 out of 4.

*How would you rate the **content** of the PCaPAC 2008 (schedule, talks, tutorials, posters)?*

Average score: 3.27 out of 4.

The numbers show both the organization and the content of the conference received a positive response (both beyond good). The organisation was scored almost perfectly, while the content still has some more room for improvement.

Organisation

As mentioned in the »The Numbers« section, organisation received an average of 3.73 out of 4, meaning it was perceived very well. The comments (numbers in the brackets give the number of the occurrences of the specific comment) suggest the participants specifically appreciated the help of the organisers during the event (18), as well as before the event itself (5), well respected time (7), side activities (5+3+13), specially the surprise session (13), cosy atmosphere achieved at the conference (5) and smooth and efficient organisation (4).

Things which could be improved include longer breaks for lunches (5), larger space for posters (5), acceptance of credit cards for “on the spot” payment (3), better sound system (3) and application system (3) and earlier notifications of the contributors of the posters in pills (PiP) session about their selection (3).

See the attached table with the comments at the end of this document for more details.

Content

The content received an average of 3.27 out of 4. The comments (numbers in the brackets give the number of the occurrences of the specific comment) suggest the participants specifically appreciated the variety of topics, labs and control systems (10). Both of the tutorials were also very well received (FPGA tutorial – 12, Semantic web tutorial – 9). Participants also commended the general schedule set-up (4), posters in pills session (3) and the topics about embedded applications (3).

The participants seem to be missing more time for discussions (5), would like to have a better overview of the clustering of talks and posters into the subtopics (3), felt like the native English speakers were sometimes speaking too fast (2) and did not approve of people working on laptops during the presentations (2).

See the attached table with the comments at the end of this document for more details.

Suggestions for PCaPAC 2010

The main suggestions from the participants for the organizers of PCaPAC 2010 were to on one hand increase the interaction between the participants either by simply allowing more time for discussions/poster sessions, organising round tables, hands-on tutorials or just by having a common lunch.

Another suggestion is to try to involve the younger participants (students, newly employed, ...) more. Specific suggestions include an introductory/summary session in the beginning of the conference where the general overview of topics, control systems and the general terms would be given, glossary of the important terms (i.e. EPICS) in the book of abstracts, and simply to encourage more young people to come to the conference.

See the attached table with the comments at the end of this document for more details.

The comments

What things did you like the most regarding the organization?

Helpful organisers (prompt assistance)	18
Surprise session	13
Keeping time	7
Family-like dimate, hearty atmosphere, humorous	5
Pre-conference support	5
Side activities	5
Smooth and Efficient	4
City Tour	3
Location	3
Charter from Venice	3
Frequent announcements form the orgs (also on the schedule)	3
Hotel	3
Website, communication	2
Weather	2
Wifi	2
email response time	1
T-shirt	1
Queen	1
The hat game	1
Book of Abstracts	1
Tips for the good restaurants	1
30 minute breaks	1
Local Ethnic flavour	1
Smooth registration	1
EPICS meeting + PCaPAC close together	1
Drinking buddies	1

What things regarding the organization of the conference would you change for the PCaPAC 2010?

short break for lunch	5
Small space for poster presentations	5
Sound System	3
Credit cards	3
JACoW system	3
Short notice for PiP	3
Air ventilation in the meeting room	2
No common lunch	2
Earlier upload	2
email response time	1
Slow wireless network	1
Airport to city information	1
Timing and control of talks	1
Lab visit on the last day is not a good idea	1
Coffee	1
Conference bag is too shining	1

What things did you like the most regarding the content?

FPGA tutorial	12
Variety of control systems, labs, topics	10
Semantic web talk	9
Schedule	4
PiP	3
Embedded applications	3
High quality	2
Presentations well thought	1
Nr. Of women	1
Technical and engineering content	1
Industrial exhibitors	1
Poster session	1
Balance between presentations and face to face discussions	1
Small project to small lab	1
Organisation of topics	1
Electronic Logbook talk	1
number of people (100)	1
Discussions	1
Future of SW, HW and web applications	1
Well focussed on control	1
Real problems, real solutions	1
No parallel sessions	1

*What things regarding the content of the
conference would you change for the PCaPAC
2010?*

Not enough opportunities for discussions	5
Clustering of talks into topics was not obvious	3
Native speakers speaking too fast	2
Laptops during talks	2
speakers not proper presenters	1
Some powerpoint presentations	1
Basic tutorials not needed	1
Too various	1
Too many Cosylab people	1
Too many presentations coming from the same labs	1

Suggestions

Forum for the members attending on the website ofr after-conference discussions	
Even more women	
contact sweisse@ijk.de for specifics on psychological preparations before presentations	
Make organisation (clustering) of talks&posters more obvious	
More time for posters and discussions	
Common lunch	
hands-on tutorials	
More Embedded content, concerning software reliability	
Provide a way to introduce new young people in the field of work	
Interaction with operators - getting feedback from the control room.	
More abstracts, better speakers	
A corner demonstration like at EPICS meeting, not only reserved for the sponsors	
Orgnised groups for meals	
Cookies with more chocolate	
More topics also from experiments	
Summarise basics for the beginners or include the glossary in the abstract book (i.e. what is EPICS)	3
More reports of the state of computer science	
Cosylab can be an outsourcing resource for the conference/workshop management	
More young people	
Organise round tables	3
More new hardware demos in breaks	
Encourage more posters	
Don't focuss on EPICS	
Split the posters in two poster sessions	2
Avoid status reports	
Info about well-known projects processed in different labs	