Date: August 31, 2012

To: ACM Multimedia Steering Committee,

Hosting ACM Multimedia 2015 in Brisbane, Australia

Proposed by

School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering

The University of Queensland, Australia

General Chairs:

Dr Hongjiang Zhang

Prof Xiaofang Zhou

Prof Alan F. Smeaton

Program Coordinator:

Prof Tat-seng Chua

Technical Program Chairs:

Prof Dick Bulterman

Prof Ketan Mayer-Patel

Prof Heng Tao Shen

Prof Qi Tian

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      Professor Heng Tao Shen (shenht@itee.uq.edu.au)

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Official Letter of Invitation

October 2015
Steering Committee
ACM International Conference on Multimedia

Dear Members of the ACM MM Steering Committee,

On behalf of the School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering at The University of Queensland, we have great pleasure in inviting you to consider holding the 2015 ACM International Conference on Multimedia in Brisbane, Australia.

The School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering, and the key individuals listed in this proposal, have had a proven record of excellence in conference management with extensive prior experience in organizing successful national and international conferences, and consistent involvement in program committees and steering committees of conferences at both a local and international level.

The University of Queensland views organizing ACM MM 2015 as a major opportunity to form strong relationships with the international data engineering community and to share knowledge and expertise with our international colleagues.

Should this bid be successful, the delegates of ACM MM 2015 will participate in a dynamic conference with the best of Australian knowledge, experience and hospitality.
Yours sincerely,

Professor Paul Strooper
Head of School
Information Technology & Electrical Engineering, The University of Queensland

Our Proposal

The School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering [ITEE] at The University of Queensland [UQ], and the Australia Research Council's Research Network in Enterprise Information Infrastructure [EII] invite the ACM MM Steering Committee to hold the ACM International Conference on Multimedia 2015 in Brisbane, Australia.

This proposal has been developed by ITEE and EII, supported by all the chairs in the organization committees and colleagues from the National University of Australia, the University of New South Wales, the University of Sydney, Queensland University of Technology and Deakin University with some promotional information provided by the Brisbane Marketing.

Brisbane, Australia for ACM MM 2015

Brisbane, located in Queensland, Australia, is the ideal host city for the ACM International Conference on Multimedia 2015 – ACM MM 2015.

Brisbane is a modern, dynamic destination that meets all the criteria for hosting a successful event. Brisbane has established an influential foothold in the international community and contributes to leading the world in a range of sectors including mining and energy, information and communication technology, creative industries, healthcare and life sciences, and infrastructure. Meticulous planning and a clear vision for the future have allowed the city to prosper whilst maintaining an easy-going attitude and a much-envied lifestyle.

Brisbane can offer a vibrant and welcoming environment for ACM MM 2015 delegates, and a conference experience that meets the highest standards. Amongst the city's many benefits, Brisbane offers:

- **Easy international air access.** More than 30 international airlines fly directly into and out of Brisbane. Brisbane's International Airport, applauded by the International Air Transport Association for its efficiency and outstanding customer focus, is conveniently located just 20 minutes from Brisbane's city centre.

- **Affordability.** Brisbane offers great value for money. Favourable local prices for accommodation, wining and dining, entertainment and shopping help delegate dollars stretch further.

- **World-class venues and accommodation**. When it comes to event infrastructure and accommodation, Brisbane offers a wide range of high quality accommodation with 230 hotels and more than 12,750 rooms, with 27 hotels within a 2km radius of the city's Centre. There is an extensive choice of accommodation from five star hotels to serviced apartments with a price range to suit all budgets.

- **Ideal weather.** Brisbane enjoys a consistent climate of blue skies and warm sunshine, with weather so good that alfresco dining and outdoor activities are possible year-round. During the early summer months of October and November, the climate is particularly attractive and this is one of the most popular times of the year to visit Brisbane, with fine days of sunshine and mild nights of stars.

- **Walkability.** Brisbane is a compact city, perfectly suited for pedestrian strolling. Delegates on foot can easily access most venues and facilities.

- **Diversity of local leisure activities.** From unique urban experiences to authentic Australian outdoor adventures, Brisbane offers a great mix of recreational pursuits and easy day-trip options ideally suited to pre and post touring.

Brisbane is the third largest city in Australia with a population of more than 1.8 million people. It is located on the east coast of Australia in the south-east corner of Queensland.

Justification for the Host Organization

The University of Queensland [UQ] is one of Australia's premier learning and research institutions. It is the oldest university in the Australian state of Queensland and has produced almost 197,000 graduates since opening in 1911. Its graduates have become leaders in all areas of society and industry: uq.edu.au

Located within the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology, the **School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering [ITEE]** boasts a strong, internationally recognised research base and through its association with a number of research centres, is a research leader in information & communications technology: itee.uq.edu.au

The School maintains multiple research divisions and academic staff members whose research activities directly overlap with the ACM MM Conference in particular the **Data Engineering** and **Pattern Recognition (DEPR)** research division**.** Members of DEPR hold current grant funding over AU$ 10 million which includes research funding from the Australia Research Council and industry as well as larger initiatives like EII - see below. The division has an immensely successful track record of publishing in the top ranked conferences and journals such as ACM MM, ACM SIGMOD, VLDB, ICDE, CVPR, various ACM and IEEE transactions with over 300 publications in the last 5 years. DEPR members have advised 60+ research students in the last 5 years, resulting in 30+ completions. The division also contributes significantly to the international research community including conference chairing, PC membership and reviewing for some of the most prominent conferences and journals in the area: itee.uq.edu.au/dke

The University of Queensland is a part of the National ICT Australia [NICTA], a large Australian Government funded centre for information and communication technologies. The Queensland Research Laboratory of NICTA is co-located with the School of ITEE. Many of the key individuals involved in this proposal are contributing members to the NICTA research programs: nicta.com.au

ARC Research Network in Enterprise Information Infrastructure [EII] is an initiative of the Australia Research Council and led by Prof Xiaofang Zhou at The University of Queensland. It has received AU$3.2 million funding over a five-year period. The member institutions of EII include 17 Australian universities: The University of Queensland, The University of Melbourne, Monash University, The University of Sydney, The University of New South Wales, The Australian National University, Victoria University, Swinburne University, Edith Cowen University, Macquarie University, The University of Wollongong, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, University of Technology Sydney, University of South Australia, Tasmania University and The University of Newcastle; two national ICT research organisations (NICTA, CSIRO ICT Centre), and two industry participants (Microsoft, SAP). EII's mission is "to bring leading researchers together to share their knowledge", and one of its specific objectives is to bring one leading database research conference to Australia: eii.edu.au

Queensland's ICT Industry

According to the 2006-2007 Queensland ICT industry survey, the local ICT industry comprises an estimated:

- 5,700 businesses
- 70,000 in the workforce
- $29 billion in revenues
- $1.15 billion in exports.

Queensland is renowned for its world-class ICT products and services, supported by high-quality education and training institutions. Brisbane boasts three universities – all undertaking ICT research – The University of Queensland [uq.edu.au], Queensland University of Technology [qut.edu.au] and Griffith University [griffith.edu.au], as well as dedicated government ICT research centres – CSIRO ICT Centre [research.ict.csiro.au] and National ICT Australia [nicta.com.au]. Queensland is also home to a growing number of corporate sector ICT research and development centres, including IBM, Oracle, Red Hat, SAP, Technology One, Microsoft, THQ and Sega.

The $23.6 billion Queensland ICT industry directly employs 77,000 people in over 5,600 businesses. Over 80 per cent of these companies are based in South East Queensland, and Brisbane is the ICT nucleus of it all. Brisbane's ICT industry boasts strong expertise in areas of e-Security, open source software, mining technology and automation, enterprise software development, simulation and interactive entertainment applications.

Global software companies such as TechnologyOne, Mincom and Data#3 founded in Brisbane, have been joined on the international stage by a new breed of innovative interactive entertainment companies including Krome Studios, Wildfire Studios, Halfbrick Studios, and Hoodlum.

Recent Major ICT Events in Brisbane

In September 2010, Brisbane was on show to the international ICT business community when it hosted the **World Computer Congress** (WCC) 2010 in conjunction with the Australian Computer Society. Outbidding China, India and South Africa in 2006 to host this event, the congress captured the attention of 1150 delegates, from many countries, over four days, generating $2.8 million worth of economic value for Brisbane. Brisbane also hosted the 2010 International DEA Symposium during September (27-29) at QUT. The conference, *Pushing the Envelope*, discussed aspects of data envelope analysis for application to develop computer software for use by the public and private sector.

From 24-29 January 2011, 700 delegates are expected to attend the **Australian Linux conference**, LCA 2011 at QUT Gardens Point. LCA 2001 (linux.conf.au) is one of the world's best conferences for free and open source software. Brisbane will play host to the 5th International Conference on Communities & Technologies – C&T 2011 (29 June – 2 July 2011), at QUT. The biennial C&T conference is the premier international forum for stimulating scholarly debate and disseminating research on the complex connections between communities – both physical and virtual – and information and communication technologies.

In 2014, Brisbane will also host **the G20 Leaders' Submit**, which will put Brisbane on the world's economic map, attracting not only the political chiefs but also heads of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Labour Organisation, the World Trade Organisation and the International Monetary Fund. There will be about 4000 delegates and 3000 accredited media to come to Brisbane, setting the city as the world's focus in November 2014.

Recent Major Conferences in Brisbane and Gold Coast

ICDE 2013: the 29th International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE)

In April 2013, Brisbane will host one of the top database conferences – ICDE 2013. The annual ICDE conference addresses research issues in designing, building, managing, and evaluating advanced data-intensive systems and applications. It is a leading forum for researchers, practitioners, developers, and users to explore cutting-edge ideas and to exchange techniques, tools, and experiences. Organized by DEPR research division at UQ, the conference will expect to attract about 500 database researchers from all over the world. The conference will be held at the Sofitel Hotel in the center of Brisbane, in April 2013.

PAKDD 2013: the 17th Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD)

Directly following ICDE 2013, the 17th Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD) will be held in Gold Coast. The Pacific-Asia Conference in Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining is the largest conference of its field in the pacific region attracting over 300 delegates from Canada and the US across to Australia and New Zealand and including all Asian countries with high participation from Japan, Korea, China, and Singapore. It also attracts many participants from Europe.

SIGIR 2014: the 37th Annual International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research & Development on Information Retrieval (SIGIR)

In 2014, the top information retrieval conference, the 37th SIGIR, will take place in Gold Coast. SIGIR is the major international forum for the presentation of new research results and for the demonstration of new systems and techniques in the broad field of information retrieval (IR). This is another large conference in computer science research and will expect to attract over 500 delegates from the world.

Conference Committee Chairs

General Organizations

The three General Co-Chairs are Xiaofang Zhou (University of Queensland), Hong-Jiang Zhang (Kingsoft), and Alan Smeaton (Dublin City University, Ireland). While the three will work as a cohesive team, each has the following well-defined responsibilities:

Xiaofang Zhou	Hong-Jiang Zhang	Alan Smeaton
- Local Organization - Finance - Web Site - Registration - Proceedings - History Preservation - Publicity and Social Media - Travel Grants - Sponsorship (contact point) - Industrial Exhibit	- Long Papers - Short Papers - High-Risk High-Return Papers - Multimedia Grand Challenge Papers - Sponsorship - Industrial Exhibit	- Workshops - Tutorials - Panels & Industry Panels - Technical Demo - Doctoral Symposium - Sponsorship - Industrial Exhibit (contact point)

Although Xiaofang Zhou and Alan Smeaton are the contact points for "Sponsorship" and the "Industrial Exhibit" programs, respectively, all three General Co-Chairs will actively involve in these two areas, ensuring significant industry participation in the form of sponsorship and exhibition.

The initial Organizing Committee is as follows. **All the chairs in the table have been confirmed** and we will add/update new chairs once we receive more confirmations.

General Chair

Xiaofang Zhou, University of Queensland, Australia

Hong-Jiang Zhang, Kingsoft, China

Alan Smeaton, Dublin City University, Ireland

Program Coordinator

Tat-Seng Chua, National University of Singapore

Technical Program Committee Chair

Dick Bulterman, CWI, The Netherlands

Ketan Mayer-Patel, UNC, USA

Heng Tao Shen, University of Queensland, Australia

Qi Tian, University of Texas at San Antonio, USA

Local Organization Chair

Yi Yang, University of Queensland, Australia

Zi Huang, University of Queensland, Australia

Finance and Registration Chair

Brian Lovell, University of Queensland, Australia

Web Chair

Dian Tjondronegoro, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Panel Chair

Changwen Chen, University at Buffalo, USA

Brave New Idea Chair

Yong Rui, MSRA, China

Nicu Sebe, University of Trento, Italy

Multimedia Grand Challenge Chair

Michael Lew, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Jie Yang, NSF, USA

Workshop Chair

Alan Hanjalic, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Lexing Xie, Australia National University

Technical Demo Chair

Alejandro Jaimes, Yahoo! Spain

Zheng-Jun Zha, National University of Singapore

Doctoral Symposium Chair

Cees G. M. Snoek, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Shuicheng Yan, National University of Singapore

Tutorials Chair

Rainer Lienhart, Universität Augsburg, Germany

Thomas Plagemann, University of Oslo, Norway

Interactive Arts Chair

Vincent Oria, New Jersey Institute of Technology

James Z. Wang, PSU, USA

Video Program Chair

Shin'ichi Satoh, National Inst. of Informatics, Japan

Meng Wang, Hefei University of Technology, China

Publicity and Social Media Chair

Jiebo Luo, University of Rochester, USA

Lei Zhang, MSRA, China

Open Source Software Competition

Xian-Sheng Hua, Microsoft, USA

Marco Bertini, University of Florence, Italy

Sponsorship Chair

Abdulmotable El Saddik, University of Ottawa, Canada

Travel Grant Chair

Rong Yan, Facebook, USA

Proceedings Chair

Roger Zimmermann, National University of Singapore

History Preservation Chair

K. Selcuk Candan, Arizona State University, USA

Chong-Wah Ngo, City Univ. of Hong Kong, HK

General Chair

Xiaofang Zhou is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Queensland (UQ), and the Head of the Data Engineering and Pattern Recognition Research Division at UQ. He is the Convenor and Director of ARC Research Network in Enterprise Information Infrastructure (a major national research collaboration initiative in Australia), and the founding chair of ACM SIGSPATIAL Australian Chapter. He has been working in the area of multimedia retrieval, spatial databases, data quality, high performance query processing, Web information systems and bioinformatics, co-authored over 200 research papers with many published in top journals and conferences such as SIGMOD, VLDB, ACM MM, The VLDB Journal, ACM Transactions and IEEE Transactions. He was the Program Committee Chair of IFIP Conference on Visual Databases (VDB 2002), Australasian Database Conferences (ADC 2002 and 2003), International Conference on Web Information Systems Engineering (WISE 2004), Asia Pacific Web Conferences (APWeb 2003 and 2006), International Conference on Databases Systems for Advanced Applications (DASFAA 2009). He has been on the program committees of over 150 international conferences, including ACM MM, SIGMOD, VLDB, and WWW. Currently he is an Associate Editor of The VLDB Journal, IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, World Wide Web Journal and Springer's Web Information System Engineering book series. Xiaofang is an Adjunct Professor of Renmin University of China appointed under the Chinese National Qianren Scheme.

Hong-Jiang Zhang is the CEO of Kingsoft, a software company located in China and listed in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since 2007. He was the Managing Director of Microsoft Advanced Technology Center (ATC), a R&D center working on advanced technologies and software products and services. He was also the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for Microsoft China Research and Development Group (CRD). He was a founding member, then the Assistant Managing Director, of Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA). As a researcher in media computing, more specifically in video and image analysis, search and browsing, over the years, he has authored four books, over 350 scientific papers and holds 62 US patents. He has been elected Fellow of IEEE and ACM and won the "2008 Asian American Engineers of the Year" award. He is also the recipient of 2010 IEEE Computer Society Technical Achievement Awards. He has severed as an Editor of Proceedings of IEEE, IEEE Transaction on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology, IEEE Multimedia, and Editor in Chief of IEEE Transactions on Multimedia.

Alan Smeaton has been a Professor of Computing at Dublin City University (DCU) since 1997. Prior to that he was a Senior Lecturer and before that he was a Lecturer at DCU. He has published over 300 book chapters, journal and refereed conference papers as well as dozens of other presentations, seminars and posters. He was an Associate Editor of the ACM Transactions on Information Systems for 8 years, a member of the editorial board of

the Journal of Document and Text Management, and is presently a member of the Editorial Boards of Information Retrieval, Information Processing and Management, Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval, the Journal on Digital Libraries and the ACM Journal on Computers and Cultural Heritage. His early research interests covered the application of natural language processing techniques to (text) information retrieval but this then broadened to cover the indexing and content-based retrieval of information in all media, text, image, audio and especially digital video, and now the focus of his work is in information access for all kinds of human digital memory applications

Program Coordinator

Tat-Seng Chua is the KITHC Chair Professor at the School of Computing, National University of Singapore. He was the Acting and Founding Dean of the School during 1998-2000. Dr Chua's main research interest is in multimedia information retrieval, in particular, on the extraction, retrieval and question-answering (QA) of text, video and live media. He is currently working on several multi-million-dollar projects: interactive media search, local contextual search, and live media search. His group participates regularly in TREC-QA and TRECVID news video retrieval evaluations. Dr. Chua is active in the international research community. He has organized and served as program committee member of numerous international conferences in the areas of computer graphics, multimedia and text processing. He is the conference co-chair of ACM Multimedia 2005, ACM CIVR 2005, and ACM SIGIR 2008. He serves in the editorial boards of: ACM Transactions of Information Systems (ACM), Foundation and Trends in Information Retrieval (NOW), The Visual Computer (Springer Verlag), and Multimedia Tools and Applications (Kluwer). He is the member of steering committee of ICMR (International Conference on Multimedia Retrieval) and Multimedia Modelling conference series; and as member of International Review Panel of two large-scale research projects in Europe. Dr. Chua is leading a joint research center between NUS and Tsinghua University to develop technologies for live media search.

Technical Program Chair

Dick Bulterman is a senior researcher at CWI in Amsterdam, where since 2004 he heads the Distributed and Interactive Systems group. He is also holds the professorship of Distributed Multimedia Languages and Interfaces with the department of computer science at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, where he teaches and does research within the Computer Systems and Web and Media groups. From 1988-1994 (and briefly in 2002), he led CWI's Department of Computer Systems and Telematics and from 1994 to 1998, he was head of the Multimedia and Human Computer theme. In 1999, he started Oratrix Development BV, a CWI spin-off company that transferred the group's SMIL-based GRiNS software to many parts of the civilized world. In 2002, after handing the responsibilities of CEO over to Mario Wildvanck, he returned to CWI and started up a new research activity at CWI on distributed multimedia systems. Prior to join CWI in 1988, he was on the faculty of the Division of Engineering at

Brown. Dr. Bulterman received a Ph.D. in computer science from Brown University (USA) in 1982.He is a member of various conference steering committees. He is on the editorial board of the ACM/Springer Multimedia Systems Journal and Multimedia Tools and Applications.
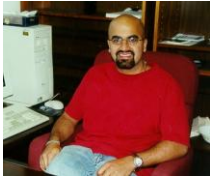
Ketan Mayer-Patel is an Associate Professor in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science in 1999 from the University of California at Berkeley. His research generally focuses on multimedia systems, networking, and multicast applications. Currently, he is investigating model-based video coding, dynamic media coding models, and networking problems associated with multiple independent, but semantically related, media streams. He has chaired the Multimedia Computing and Networking conference 2009 and been involved in many other program committees.

Heng Tao Shen is a Professor of Computer Science and a Future Fellow awarded by Australia Research Council in the School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering (ITEE) at the University of Queensland (UQ). He obtained his BSc with 1st class Honours and PhD from Department of Computer Science, National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2000 and 2004 respectively. He then joined the University of Queensland as a Lecturer (Jun 2004-Mar 2007), Senior Lecturer (Apr 2007-Dec 2009), Reader (Jan 2010-Dec 2011) and Professor (Jan 2012-Present). His research interests mainly include Multimedia/Mobile/Web Search, and Database Management. He has also published nearly 100 top journal articles and conference papers in multimedia and database communities, including ACM MM, ACM SIGMOD, ICDE, VLDB, VLDB Journal, ACM TOIS, IEEE TKDE, IEEE TMM, PR, etc. He is the winner of Chris Wallace Award for outstanding Research Contribution on video retrieval in 2010 conferred by Computing Research and Education Association, Australasia. Heng Tao has served on program committees in most prestigious international publication venues in database/multimedia communities.

Qi Tian is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science, the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). During 2008-2009, he took one-year Faculty Leave at Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA) in the Media Computing Group (former Internet Media Group). He received his Ph.D. in 2002 from UIUC. Dr. Tian's research interests include multimedia information retrieval and computer vision. He has published about 170 refereed journal and conference papers in these fields. His research projects were funded by NSF, ARO, DHS, Google, NEC Laboratories of America, HP Lab, FXPAL, SALSI, and Akiira Media System, Inc. He was the co-author of a Best Student Paper in ICASSP 2006, and co-author of a Best Paper Candidate in PCM 2007 and in ICIMCS 2012. He was a nominee for 2008 and 2010 UTSA President Distinguished Research Award. He received 2010 ACM Service Award. He has been serving as Program Chairs, Organization Committee Members, Session Chairs and TPC for over 120 IEEE and ACM Conferences including ACM

Multimedia, SIGIR, ICCV, ICME, ICASSP, ICPR, VCIP, , etc. He is the Guest co-Editors of IEEE Transactions on Multimedia, ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology, Journal of Computer Vision and Image Understanding, and EURASIP Journal on Advances in Signal Processing and is the associate editor of Journal of Machine Vision and Applications, the associate editor of IEEE Transaction on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology and in the Editorial Board of Journal of Multimedia.

Panel Chair

Changwen Chen has been a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, since 2008. Previously, he was Allen S. Henry Endowed Chair Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Florida Institute of Technology, from 2003 to 2007. He was on the faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Missouri - Columbia from 1996 to 2003 and at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, from 1992 to 1996. From 2000 to 2002, he served as the Head of the Interactive Media Group at the David Sarnoff Research Laboratories, Princeton, NJ. He has also consulted with Kodak Research Labs, Microsoft Research, Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Air Force Rome Laboratories, Intel, Thomson, and Huawei. Professor Chen has been the Editor-in-Chief for *IEEE Trans. Circuits and Systems for Video Technology* for two terms from January 2006 to December 2009. He has served as an Editor for *Proceedings of IEEE*, *IEEE Trans. Multimedia*, *IEEE Journal of Selected Areas in Communications*, *IEEE Multimedia Magazine*, *Journal of Wireless Communication and Mobile Computing*, *EUROSIP Journal of Signal Processing: Image Communications*, and *Journal of Visual Communication and Image Representation*. He has also chaired and served in numerous technical program committees for IEEE, ACM and other international conferences. He has received numerous achievement and best paper awards, including Sigma Xi Excellence in Graduate Research Mentoring Award in 2003 and Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in 2009. He received his BS from University of Science and Technology of China in 1983, MSEE from University of Southern California in 1986, and Ph.D. from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1992. He is an IEEE Fellow and an SPIE Fellow.

Brave New Idea Chair

Yong Rui is a Senior Director at Microsoft Research Asia. From 2010 to 2012, he was a Senior Director and General Manager of Microsoft Asia-Pacific R&D (ARD) Group where he is in charge of China Innovation. From 2008 to 2010, he was the Director responsible for Microsoft Education Product in China. From 2006 to 2008, he was ARD's first Director of R&D Strategy, and from 1999 to 2006, he was leading the Multimedia Collaboration group at Microsoft Research, Redmond, USA. Dr. Rui is the Associate Editor-in-Chief of IEEE Multimedia Magazine, an Associate Editor of ACM Trans. on Multimedia Computing, Communication and Applications (TOMCCAP) and a founding editor of International Journal of Multimedia Information

Retrieval. He was an Associate Editor of IEEE Trans. on Multimedia (2004-2008), IEEE Trans. on Circuits and Systems for Video Technologies (2006-2010), ACM/Springer Multimedia Systems Journal (2004-2006), and International Journal of Multimedia Tools and Applications (2004-2006). He also serves on the Advisory Board of IEEE Trans. on Automation Science and Engineering. He is a Fellow of IEEE, IAPR and SPIE, and a Distinguished Scientist of ACM.

Nicu Sebe is with the Faculty of Cognitive Sciences, University of Trento, Italy, where he is leading the research in the areas of multimedia information retrieval and human-computer interaction in computer vision applications. He was involved in the organization of the major conferences and workshops addressing the computer vision and human-centered aspects of multimedia information retrieval, among which as a General Co-Chair of the IEEE Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition Conference, FG 2008, ACM International Conference on Image and Video Retrieval (CIVR) 2007 and 2010, and WIAMIS 2009 and as one of the initiators and a Program Co-Chair of the Human-Centered Multimedia track of the ACM Multimedia 2007 conference. He is the general chair of ACM Multimedia 2013 and a program chair of ACM Multimedia 2011. He has served as the guest editor for several special issues in IEEE Computer, Computer Vision and Image Understanding, Image and Vision Computing, Multimedia Systems, and ACM TOMCCAP. He has been a visiting professor in Beckman Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and in the Electrical Engineering Department, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany. He is the co-chair of the IEEE Computer Society Task Force on Human-centered Computing and is an associate editor of Machine Vision and Applications, Image and Vision Computing, Electronic Imaging and of Journal of Multimedia.

Multimedia Grand Challenge Chair

Michael Lew is the co-head of the LIACS Imagery and Media Research cluster (20+ members), which is one of the four main research groups at the computer science department at Leiden University, The Netherlands. His research interests lie at the intersection between humans and computer science. He is the Editor in Chief of International Journal of Multimedia Information Retrieval and Editor for the Journal of Multimedia and Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Smart Environments.

Jie Yang is a computer scientist whose research interests include multimodal human-computer interaction (modeling and learning), computer vision, and pattern recognition. His research goals are to enable computers to sense the world from multiple cues, to understand these cues from learning, and to interact with humans in a natural way. His current research activities focus on developing technologies for three scenarios: (1) to support

multimodal human computer interaction (e.g., Interact Project) and to serve humans who focus on interacting with other humans (e.g., CHIL Project); (2) to support geriatric care (e.g., CareMedia Project); and (3) to support human collaborations (e.g., Gesture Project and Large Scale Collaboration Project). He is currently on leave from CMU and working for National Science Foundation.

Workshop Chair

Alan Hanjalic is a full professor, holder of the Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Chair in Multimedia Computing and head of the Multimedia Signal Processing Group at the Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands. He was a visiting scientist at Hewlett-Packard Labs, British Telecom Labs, Philips Research and Microsoft Research Asia. Research interests of Prof. Hanjalic are in the broad field of multimedia computing, with focus on multimedia information retrieval and personalized multimedia content delivery. The fundamental question Prof. Hanjalic is interested in is how to provide efficient, natural and intuitive content-based access to large multimedia data collections, and to enable the realization of the paradigm "multimedia content I like, anytime and anyplace" in the applications belonging to a variety of use contexts. The search and retrieval solutions he envisions for this purpose will be robust, generic, computationally efficient and scalable enough to enable real-life applications and use cases. He is an editor for IEEE Transactions on Multimedia and IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing.

Lexing Xie is Senior Lecturer in the Research School of Computer Science at the Australian National University. She received B.S. from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University, all in Electrical Engineering. She was with IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in New York from 2005 to 2010. Her research interests are in multimedia, social media, and applied machine learning. Her recent projects include multimedia analysis, social media tracking, visual semantics, large-scale image and video search, geo-spatial and urban event modeling. Lexing's research has received five best student paper and best paper awards in ACM MM 2002 and 2005, IEEE ICIP 2004, ACM/IEEE JCDL 2007 and IEEE SOLI 2011. She was the 2005 IBM Research Josef Raviv Memorial Postdoc fellow in Computer Science and Engineering. She was adjunct assistant professor at Columbia University 2007-2009. She regularly serves on the program committees and plays organizing roles of major multimedia conferences.

Technical Demo Chair

Alejandro Jaimes is Senior Research Scientist at Yahoo! Research where he is leading new initiatives at the intersection of web-scale data analysis and user understanding (user engagement & improving user experience). Dr. Jaimes is the founder of the ACM Multimedia Interactive Art program, Industry Track chair for ACM RecSys 2010 and

UMAP 2009, and panels chair for KDD 2009. He was program cochair of ACM Multimedia 2008, co-editor of the IEEE Trans. on Multimedia Special issue on Integration of Context and Content for Multimedia Management (2008), and a founding member of the IEEE CS Taskforce on Human-Centered Computing. His work has led to over 70 technical publications in international conferences and journals, and to numerous contributions to MPEG-7. He has been granted several patents, and serves in the program committee of several international conferences. He has been an invited speaker at Practitioner Web Analytics 2010, CIVR 2010, ECML-PKDD 2010 and KDD 2009 and (Industry tracks), ACM Recommender Systems 2008 (panel), DAGM2008 (keynote), 2007 ICCV Workshop on HCI, and several others. Before joining Yahoo! Dr. Jaimes was a visiting professor at U. Carlos III in Madrid and founded and managed the User Modeling and Data Mining group at Telefónica Research. Prior to that Dr. Jaimes was Scientific Manager at IDIAP-EPFL (Switzerland), and was previously at Fuji Xerox (Japan), IBM TJ Watson (USA), IBM Tokyo Research Laboratory (Japan), Siemens Corporate Research (USA), and AT&T Bell Laboratories(USA). Dr. Jaimes received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering (2003) and a M.S. in Computer Science from Columbia U. (1997) in NYC.

Zheng-Jun Zha received the B.E. degree and the Ph.D. degree in the Department of Automation from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), Hefei, China. He is currently a senior research fellow in the School of Computing, National University of Singapore. His current research interests include multimedia content analysis, computer vision, as well as multimedia applications such as search, recommendation, and social networking. He has authored more than 80 book chapters, journal articles and conference publications in these areas, including TMM, TOMCCAP, TIP, TCSVT, ACM MM, CVPR, SIGIR, etc. He has been serving with more than 20 major international journals and serving as Program Committee for many international conferences, including ACM MM, CIVR, ICMR, MMM, PCM, ICME, SIGIR, IJCAI, etc. He has also served as program co-chair, special session co-chair, publicity co-chair, and workshop co-chair of international conferences. He received Microsoft Research Fellowship in 2007, President Scholarship of Chinese Academy of Science in 2009, and the Best Paper Award in the 17th ACM International Conference on Multimedia (ACM MM 2009). He is a member of ACM, and IEEE.

Tutorials Chair

Rainer Lienhart is a full professor in the computer science department of the University of Augsburg where he heads the Multimedia Computing Lab (MMC Lab). His group is focusing on all aspects of very large-scale image, video, and audio mining algorithms including feature extraction and image/video retrieval. In 2009, he spent his sabbatical at Willow Garage – a robotic company, which is working on laying the groundwork for the industry that will be needed to enable personal robotics applications by investing in open source such as OpenCV and open platform adoption models. Rainer Lienhart has always been an active contributor to

OpenCV. From August 1998 to July 2004 he was a Staff Researcher at Intel's Microprocessor Research Lab in Santa Clara, California, where he worked on media content analysis with contributions in text detection/recognition, commercial detection, face, shot and scene detection, and automatic video abstraction. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Mannheim, Germany, in 1998. The scientific work of Rainer Lienhart covers more than 80 refereed publications and more than 20+ patents. Since July 2009 he is the vice chair of SIGMM. He is also the executive director of the Institute for Computer Science at the University of Augsburg since April 2010.

Thomas Plagemann is Professor at the University of Oslo since 1996. Currently, he leads the research group in Distributed Multimedia Systems at the Department of Informatics. He has a Dr.SC degree from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in 1994 and received in 1995 the Medal of the ETH Zurich for his excellent Dr. Scient thesis. His research interests include multimedia systems, protocols architectures for the Future Internet, networked sensors and event based systems, and mobile systems. He has published over 100 papers in peer reviewed journals, conferences and workshops in his field. He serves as Associate Editor for ACM Transactions of Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications and as Editor-in-Chief for the Springer Multimedia Systems Journal.

Doctoral Symposium Chair
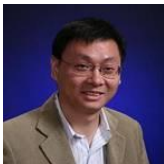
Yan Shuicheng is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at National University of Singapore, and the founding lead of the Learning and Vision Research Group (http://www.lv-nus.org). Dr. Yan's research areas include computer vision, multimedia and machine learning, and he has authored or co-authored about 300 technical papers over a wide range of research topics, with H-index 37 and cited over 6,400 times. He currently serves as associate editor of IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology (IEEE TCSVT) and ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (ACM TIST), and has been serving as the guest editor of the special issues for TMM and CVIU. He received the Best Paper Awards from PCM'11, ACM MM'10, ICME'10 and ICIMCS'09, the winner prizes of the classification task in both PASCAL VOC'10 and PASCAL VOC'11, the honorable mention prize of the detection task in PASCAL VOC'10, 2010 TCSVT Best Associate Editor (BAE) Award, 2010 Young Faculty Research Award, 2011 Singapore Young Scientist Award, and 2012 NUS Young Researcher Award.

Cees G.M. Snoek received the M.Sc. degree in business information systems (2000) and the Ph.D. degree in computer science (2005), both from the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Intelligent Systems Lab at the University of

Amsterdam. In addition, he is head of R&D at Euvision Technologies, one of the lab's spin-off. He was a visiting scientist at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA (2003) and at the University of California, Berkeley, CA (2010-2011). His research interest is video and image search. He has published over 100 refereed book chapters, journal and conference papers, and serves on the program committee of the major conferences in multimedia, computer vision, and information retrieval. Dr. Snoek is the lead researcher of the MediaMill Semantic Video Search Engine, which is a consistent top performer in the yearly NIST TRECVID evaluations. He is a co-initiator and co-organizer of the VideOlympics, co-chair of the SPIE Multimedia Content Access conference, senior member of both ACM and IEEE, and member of the editorial boards for IEEE MultiMedia and IEEE Transactions on Multimedia. He is a lecturer of post-doctoral courses given at international conferences and European summer schools. Cees is recipient of an NWO Veni award (2008), a Fulbright Junior Scholarship (2010), an NWO Vidi award (2012), and the Netherlands Prize for ICT Research (2012), all for research excellence. Several of his Ph.D. students have won best paper awards, including the IEEE Transactions on Multimedia Prize Paper Award.

Interactive Arts Chair

Vincent Oria is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. His research interests include multimedia databases, spatial databases and Recommender Systems. He has held visiting professor positions at various institutions including National Institute of Informatics (Tokyo, Japan), Telecom-PariTech (Paris, France), University of Paris-IX Dauphine (Paris, France), INRIA (Roquencourt, France), CNAM (Paris, France), Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, China) and the University of Burgundy (Dijon, France). He is an associate editor of the journals Multimedia Tools and Application (MTAP), the International Journal of Multimedia Information Retrieval (MMIR) and the International Journal of Multimedia Data Engineering and Management (IJMDEM). He has served on a number of multimedia and database conference program committees including ACM Multimedia (MM), ACM World Wide Web (WWW) and IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE).

James Z. Wang has been on Penn State faculty since 2000, where he is Professor and Faculty Council Chair of the interdisciplinary College of Information Sciences and Technology. Research interests of this group include automatic image tagging / recognition, climate informatics, biomedical informatics, computability of aesthetics and emotions, semantics-sensitive image retrieval, story picturing, art image analysis and retrieval, and image security. He has been a recipient of an NSF Career award (2004-2009) and the endowed PNC Foundation Technologies Career Development Professorship (2000-2006). He has served as the lead guest editor of IEEE Trans. on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence Special Section on Real-world Image Annotation and Retrieval (2008), the General Chair of the ACM Multimedia Information Retrieval (MIR) events (2006, 2007, and 2010), an Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on

Multimedia (2009-2011), and an invited speaker at more than 70 institutions. He was a Visiting Professor of Robotics at Carnegie Mellon University (2007-2008). In 2011 and 2012, he was a Visiting Scientist and Program Manager in the Office of the National Science Foundation Director/OISE. He has held visiting positions at IBM Almaden Research Center, SRI International, NEC Research, and Chinese Academy of Sciences. Wang received a summa cum laude Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from University of Minnesota where his thesis advisor was number theorist Dennis A. Hejhal. From Stanford University, he received an M.S. in Mathematics, an M.S. in Computer Science, and a Ph.D. in Medical Information Sciences where his Ph.D. thesis advisor was computer scientist Gio Wiederhold.

Video Program Chair
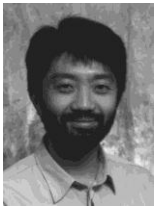
Shin'ichi Satoh is a professor at National Institute of Informatics (NII), Tokyo. He received PhD degree in 1992 at the University of Tokyo. His research interests include image processing, video content analysis and multimedia database. Currently he is leading the video processing project at NII, addressing video analysis, indexing, retrieval, and mining for broadcasted video archives. He served as Program Co-Chairs of PCM2004, MMM2008, ICMR2011, PSIVT2011, ACM Multimedia 2012, CBMI2012, and ICIMCS2012.

Meng Wang is a professor in the Hefei University of Technology, China. He received the B.E. degree and Ph.D. degree in the Special Class for the Gifted Young and the Department of Electronic Engineering and Information Science from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), Hefei, China, respectively. He previously worked as an associate researcher at Microsoft Research Asia, and then a core member in a startup in silicon valley. After that, he worked in the National University of Singapore as a senior research fellow. His current research interests include multimedia content analysis, search, mining, recommendation, and large-scale computing. He has authored more than 120 book chapters, journal and conference papers in these areas. He received the best paper awards successively in the 17th and 18th ACM International Conference on Multimedia and the best paper award in the 16th International Multimedia Modeling Conference.

Publicity and Social Media Chair

Jiebo Luo received the B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, in 1989 and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, in 1995. He was a Senior Principal Scientist with the Kodak Research Laboratories in Rochester before joining the Computer Science Department at the University of Rochester in Fall 2011. His research interests include signal and image

processing, machine learning, computer vision, and the related multi-disciplines such as multimedia data mining, medical imaging, and computational photography. He has authored over 200 technical papers and holds over 70 U.S. patents. Dr. Luo has been actively involved in numerous technical conferences, including serving as the general chair of ACM CIVR 2008, program co-chair of IEEE CVPR 2012, ACM Multimedia 2010 and SPIE VCIP 2007, area chair of IEEE ICASSP 2009–2011, ICIP 2008–2011, CVPR 2008 and ICCV 2011, and an organizer of ICME 2006/ 2008/2010 and ICIP 2002. Currently, he serves on multiple IEEE SPS Technical Committees (IMDSP, MMSP, and MLSP). He has served on the editorial boards of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PATTERN ANALYSIS AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MULTIMEDIA, the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS FOR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, Pattern Recognition, Machine Vision and Applications, and the Journal of Electronic Imaging. He is a Kodak Distinguished Inventor, a winner of the 2004 Eastman Innovation Award, and a Fellow of the IEEE, SPIE and IAPR.

Lei Zhang is a lead researcher in the Web Search & Mining Group at Microsoft Research Asia in Beijing. He is interested in research problems on image search, Internet vision and information retrieval, and holds 20 U.S. patents for his innovation in these fields. He is an IEEE senior member and an ACM senior member, and has served as an associate editor of Multimedia System Journal, program area chair of ACM Multimedia 2012, ICPR 2012 and ICME 2011, and also served on international conference program committees, including ACM Multimedia, ICCV, CVPR, WWW, SIGIR, etc. He earned a B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science from Tsinghua University in 1993 and 1995. After two years working in industry, he later returned to Tsinghua and received his PhD degree in Computer Science in 2001.

Open Source Software Competition Chair

Xian-Sheng Hua became a Principal Research and Development Lead in Multimedia Search for the Microsoft search engine, Bing, in 2011. He leads a team that designs and delivers leading-edge media understanding, indexing and searching features. He joined Microsoft Research Asia in 2001 as a researcher. Since then, his research interests have been in the areas of multimedia search, advertising, understanding, and mining, as well as pattern recognition and machine learning. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 research papers in these areas and has filed more than 60 patents. Dr Hua received his BS in 1996 and PhD in applied mathematics in 2001 from Peking University, Beijing. He serves as an associate editor of IEEE Transactions on Multimedia, an associate editor of ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology, an editorial board member of Advances in Multimedia and Multimedia Tools and Applications, and an editor of Scholarpedia (multimedia category). He was vice program chair; workshop organizer; senior TPC member and area chair; and demonstration, tutorial, and special session chairs and PC member of many more international conferences. He will serve as a program co-chair for ACM Multimedia 2012 and IEEE ICME 2012. He was honoured as one of the recipients of the prestigious 2008

MIT Technology Review TR35 Young Innovator Award for his outstanding contributions to video search. He won the Best Paper and Best Demonstration Awards at ACM Multimedia 2007, the Best Poster Award at IEEE International Workshop on Multimedia Signal Processing 2008, the Best Student Paper Award at ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management 2009, and the Best Paper Award at International Conference on MultiMedia Modeling 2010. He was named one of Global Entrepreneur's "Business Elites of People under 40 to Watch'' in 2009.

Marco Bertini received the Laurea Degree in Electronic Engineering from the University of Florence in 1999, and Ph.D. in 2004. He is working at the Media Integration and Communication Center of the University of Florence. His interests are focused on digital libraries, multimedia databases and social media. On these subjects he has addressed semantic analysis, content indexing and annotation, semantic retrieval and transcoding. He is author of 17 journal papers and more than 75 peer-reviewed conference papers, with h-index: 16 (according to Google Scholar). He has been awarded the best paper award by the ACM-SIGMM Workshop on Social Media in 2010. He has been involved in 5 EU research projects as WP coordinator and researcher. He has co-organized: the 2010 Int. Workshop on Multimedia and Semantic Technologies (MUST 2010), the 2nd IEEE Workshop on Analysis and Retrieval of Tracked Events and Motion in Imagery Streams (ARTEMIS) in conjunction with ICCV 2011, the 3rd ARTEMIS workshop in conjunction with ECCV 2012 and the VSM workshop in conjunction with ECCV 2012. He was chair of the ACM MM 2010 Open Source Software Competition.

Sponsorship Chair

Abdulmotaleb El Saddik, a University Research Chair and Professor in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Ottawa, is an internationally-recognized scholar who has made strong contributions to the knowledge and understanding of multimedia computing, communications and applications, particularly in the digitization, communication and security of the sense of touch, or haptics. Prof. El Saddik is the director of the Multimedia Communications Research Laboratory (MCRLab) and the Distributed & Collaborative Virtual Environments Research Laboratory (DISCOVER). He is Associate Editor of the ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications (ACM TOMCCAP), IEEE Transactions on Computational Intelligence and AI in Games (IEEE TCIAIG) and Guest Editor for several ACM and IEEE Transactions and Journals. Dr. El Saddik has been serving on several technical program committees of numerous IEEE and ACM events. He has been the General Chair and/or Technical Program Chair of more than 30 international conferences symposia and workshops on collaborative hapto-audio-visual environments, multimedia communications and instrumentation and measurement. He has authored and co-authored three books and more than 350 publications. Prof. El Saddik is Fellow of the IEEE. He was also elected Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

Travel Grant Chair

Rong Yan is currently a Research Scientist and leading the Ads Core Optimization team in Facebook. He was a Research Staff Member in the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center from 2006 to 2009. Dr. Yan received his M.Sc. (2004) and Ph.D. (2006) degree from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science. His research interests include large-scale machine learning, data mining, social media, multimedia information retrieval and computer vision. Dr. Yan received the Best Paper runner-Up awards in ACM Multimedia 2004 and ACM CIVR 2007. He has received the IBM Research External Recognition Award in 2007. He led the technical efforts for building the face detection service in Facebook, and also designed the automatic video retrieval system that achieves the best performance in the world-wide TRECVID evaluation in 2003 / 2005. Dr. Yan has authored or co-authored 5 book chapters and more than 60 international conference and journal papers. Dr. Yan has served or is serving as co-chairs for 10 conferences / workshops and as a Program Committee member in more than 40 ACM / IEEE conferences. He is an expert reviewer for more than 10 international journals. He has served in the NSF proposal review panel and as reviewers for several other research councils. Dr. Yan gives tutorials and guest lectures at several major conferences and universities.

Proceedings Chair

Roger Zimmermann is an Associate Professor with the Department of Computer Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS) where he is also an investigator with the Interactive and Digital Media Institute (IDMI). Prior to joining NUS he held the position of Research Area Director with the Integrated Media Systems Center (IMSC) at the University of Southern California (USC). He received his Ph.D. degree from USC in 1998. Among his research interests are distributed and peer-to-peer systems, collaborative environments, streaming media architectures, sensor-rich video management, and mobile location-based services. He has co-authored a book, five patents and more than a hundred-forty conference publications, journal articles and book chapters in the areas of multimedia and information management. He is an Associate Editor of the ACM Computers in Entertainment magazine and the ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications and Applications Journal. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE and a member of ACM.

History Preservation Chair

K. Selcuk Candan is a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Arizona State University, where he has been a faculty member since 1997. His primary contributions to the advancement of the science of computing have been in the area of efficient and scalable management of data, with specific focus on multimedia data. He has published over 160 peer-reviewed scholarly journal and conference articles crossing media and data management

areas. He has served as an editorial board member of one of the most respected database journals, the Very Large Databases journal, and is currently serving as an Associate Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Multimedia and the Journal of Multimedia. He served in the organization and program committees of conferences in both fields. He served as a steering committee member for the Multimedia Information Retrieval (MIR) workshop, which eventually became a full-fledged conference of the ACM. He is currently a member of the steering committee for Multimedia Data Mining workshop affiliated with ACM KDD conference. In 2006, he served as an organization committee member for ACM SIGMOD'06, the flagship database conference of the ACM in the area of management of data. He was a PC Chair for the ACM Multimedia Conference in 2008 and for the ACM Int. Conf. on Image and Video Retrieval in 2010. Also in 2010, he was a program group leader for ACM SIGMOD'10 and a review board member of the Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment (PVLDB). Recently, he served as a general chair for the ACM Multimedia Conference in 2011 and ACM SIGMOD Conference in 2012. He has co-authored a book titled "Data Management for Multimedia Retrieval" (Cambridge University Press) and over 15 book chapters. He holds 9 patents.

Chong-Wah Ngo is an associate professor in the Dept. of Computer Science at the City University of Hong Kong. He received his PhD in Computer Science from Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST), and MSc and BSc, both in Computer Engineering, from Nanyang Technological University of Singapore. Before joining City University of Hong Kong, he was a postdoctoral scholar in Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He was also a visiting researcher of Microsoft Research Asia. His recent research interests include large-scale multimedia information retrieval, video computing, and multimedia mining. He is the founding leader of video retrieval group (VIREO): http://vireo.cs.cityu.edu.hk/ in CityU. He is currently serving as the Associate Editor of IEEE Trans. On Multimedia. He is also the program chair of ICMR 2012, MMM 2012 and ICIMCS 2011, and program track chair of ACM MM 2012, PCM 2012, and ICME 2011. He served as the chairman of ACM (Hong Kong Chapter) during 2008-2009.

Local Organization Chair

Zi Huang is a Lecturer and Australian Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering at The University of Queensland. She is part of the DEPR research division and is involved in teaching and research in multimedia and information systems. She received her BSc degree from Department of Computer Science, Tsinghua University, China, and her PhD in Computer Science from School of ITEE, The University of Queensland. Dr. Huang's research interests include multimedia search, knowledge discovery, and information retrieval. She has published nearly 50 papers mainly in leading conferences and journals including ACM MM, ACM SIGMOD, ICDE, IEEE TMM, IEEE TKDE, ACM TOIS, etc. She received two best paper awards from DASFAA 2011 and APWEB 2010.

Yi Yang is a Research Fellow in the School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering at The University of Queensland. He is part of the DEPR research division. Before he joined UQ, he was a post-doctoral research fellow in School of Computer Science at CMU. He received his Ph.D degree from Zhejiang University, in Computer Science in 2010. His research interests include machine learning and its applications to multimedia content analysis and indexing. He has published extensively in highly ranked venues, including ACM MM, CVPR, AAAI, IEEE TKDE, IEEE TMM, IEEE TIP, IEEE PAMI, etc.

Finance and Registration Chair

Brian C. Lovell is a professor and a leader of Security and Surveillance Research Group (SAS) in ITEE at UQ. He received the BEng in electrical engineering in 1982, the BSc in computer science in 1983, and the PhD in signal processing in 1991: all from the University of Queensland (UQ). He was President of the Australian Pattern Recognition Society 1995-2005, Senior Member of the IEEE, Fellow of the World Innovation Forum, Fellow of the IEAust, and voting member for Australia on the governing board of the International Association for Pattern Recognition since 1998. Professor Lovell was Technical Co-chair of ICPR2006 in Hong Kong (Computer Vision and Image Analysis), and Program Co-chair of ICPR2008 in Tampa, Florida. He serves on the Editorial Board of Pattern Recognition Letters and reviews for many of the major journals in the fields of Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. In March 2005, he was awarded Number 1 author at UQ with almost 35,000 copies of his papers downloaded from the UQ library archive. His research interests are currently focused on intelligent surveillance techniques, optimal image segmentation, real-time video analysis, and face recognition.

Other Key Participants – Australian Based

Professor David Dagan Feng is a professor and director of the Biomedical & Multimedia Information Technology (BMIT) Group at the University of Sydney. He received his ME in Electrical Engineering & Computing Science (EECS) from Shanghai JiaoTong University in 1982, MSc in Biocybernetics and Ph.D in Computer Science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1985 and 1988 respectively. After briefly working as Assistant Professor at the University of California, Riverside, he joined the University of Sydney at the end of 1988, as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and then Reader. He has been appointed as a Professor in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University since 1997. His research interests include Biomedical & Multimedia Information Technology; Functional Imaging; Modelling & Simulation; Fast Algorithms & Data Compression. He has published over one hundred scholarly research papers. He has made several landmark contributions in his field and received a number of awards, including the

Crump Prize for Excellence in Medical Engineering from USA. He is Founder and Director of the Biomedical & Multimedia Information Technology (BMIT) Group at the University of Sydney; Deputy Director of the Center for Multimedia Signal Processing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Special Area Editor for IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine (IEEE-TITB); Guest Editor for the Special Issue on Multimedia Information Technology in Biomedicine for IEEE-TITB; Vice-Chair of International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) Technical Committee on BIOMED; and Chairman of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) Biomedical Division. He has been invited as a keynote speaker by a number of major international conferences, including the IEEE-ITAB'98, the world most prestigious conference for Information Technology Applications in Biomedicine. Professor Feng has also been appointed as Honorary Research Consultant at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Australia, since 1997, Guest Professor at Northwestern Polytechnic University since 1997, Guest Professor at Shanghai Jiaotong University since 1998, and Guest Professor at Tsinghua University since 1999.

Professor Sean He is a professor and the Director of Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, and a Deputy Director of Research Centre for Innovation in IT Services and Applications (iNEXT) at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). He is an IEEE Senior Member. He has been awarded 'Internationally Registered Technology Specialist' by International Technology Institute (ITI). He has been carrying out research mainly in the areas of image processing, pattern recognition and computer vision in the previous years. He is a leading researcher for image processing based on hexagonal structure. He has played a chairman role in various international conferences including IEEE CIT, IIEEE AVSS and ICARCV. He is in the editorial boards of seven international journals. He is a supervisor of postdoctoral research fellows and PhD students. Since 1985, he has been an academic, a visiting professor, an adjunct professor, a postdoctoral researcher or a senior researcher in various universities/institutions including Xiamen University, China, University of New England, Australia, University of Georgia, USA, Electronic and Telecommunication Research Institute (ETRI) of Korea, University of Aizu, Japan, and Hongkong Polytechnic University.

Professor Boualem Benatallah is professor and research group leader at the School of Computer Science (CSE), University of New South Wales (UNSW). He is also visiting professor at the University of Blaise Pascal and *chaire excellence* of the Auvergne Region in France (LIMOS, France, 2008-2010). His main research interests are developing fundamental concepts and techniques in service composition, integration, and business processes management. He has published more than 150 refereed papers including 35 journal papers. Most of his papers appeared in very selective and reputable conferences and journals. He is frequently invited to give keynote talks and tutorials on service computing in international conferences. Boualem has been PC co-chair of four main international conferences (BPM'05, ICSOC'05, WISE'07, ICWE'2010). He acted as the general chair of ICSOC'08 in Sydney. He has been guest editor of five special issues for reputable international journals including ACM TOIT. He has been a PC member of all the reputable international conferences in his areas of research including VLDB, ACM MM, WWW, EDBT, MDM, ICSOC, ICWS and ER. He is member of the steering committee of

BPM and ICSOC. He is on the editorial board of numerous international journals. He was visiting Professor at INRIA-LORIA, Claude Bernard University (France), University of Blaise Pascal (Clermont Ferrand, France), and University of Trento (Italy). As chair of the CSE research committee, he was member of the team (comprising multiple university, government and industry partners) that constructed the successful bid for the new Smart Services CRC, which was awarded $30m in federal funding in 2007. He was a project leader at the CRC smart services. He is a leader of a recent UNSW strategic initiative on eResearch and services.

Professor Athman Bouguettaya is head of school at the School of Computer Science and IT in RMIT. He was previously a tenured faculty member in the Computer Science department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (commonly known as Virginia Tech) (USA). He received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder (USA) in 1992. He is on the editorial boards of several journals including, the IEEE Transactions on Services Computing, International Journal on Web Services Research, VLDB Journal, Distributed and Parallel Databases Journal, and the International Journal of Cooperative Information Systems. He is also on the editorial board of the Springer-Verlag book series on services science. He was invited to be a guest editor of a special issue of the ACM Transactions on Internet technology Semantic Web services, a special issue the IEEE Transactions on Services Computing on Service Query Models, and a special issue of IEEE Internet Computing on Database Technology on the Web. He served as a Program chair of the 2009 and 2010 Australasian Database Conference, 2008 International Conference on Service Oriented Computing (ICSOC) and the IEEE RIDE Workshop on Web Services for E-Commerce and E-Government (RIDE-WS-ECEG'04). His current research interests are in Service-Oriented Computing. He was the recipient of several prestigious grants, including the large ARC grant, NSF, and NIH. He is the author of more than 140 publications, many of which are in top database and service-oriented computing journals and conferences. He is a Fellow of the IEEE and a Senior Member op the ACM.

Professor Sanjay Chawla is a Professor in the School of Information Technologies, University of Sydney. He is currently also the Head of School. His research work has appeared in leading data mining journals and conferences. He serves on the editorial board of Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery, a leading journal in all of computer science. He has received three best paper awards in the last five years - most recently at the IEEE International Conference in Data Mining (ICDM) 2010. He received his PhD in 1995 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA.

Professor Alan Fekete is a Professor of Enterprise Software Systems within the School of Information Technologies at the University of Sydney. His undergraduate education was at the University of Sydney, and his doctorate was earned in the mathematics department of Harvard University. He has been an academic at the University of Sydney since 1988, and was promoted to Professor from 2010. He is a member of ACM and ACS, and of the IEEE Computer Society. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Scientist by ACM for "significant accomplishments in, and impact on, the computing field". The motivation for Prof Fekete's research and teaching is to improve the state-of-practice in the IT

profession when dealing with enterprise software. In research, he tries to provide intellectual tools that will help software developers who work with, or who design, major infrastructure "systems" software, such as communication networks and databases. The drive behind his teaching is to help enterprises and students by producing graduates who will advance the state-of-practice in the IT profession. He tries to give students experience of the best current practice, and awareness of new ideas that are not yet common in the profession, but give hope of improving our graduates' skills.

Prof Xuemin Lin is a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of New South Wales. Currently, he is the head of database research group in the School of Computer Science and Engineering at UNSW. Xuemin got his PhD in *Computer Science* from the University of Queensland (Australia) in 1992. Xuemin started his teaching in the Computer Science Department at the University of Western Australia in 1994 after a 2 year research fellow appointment at The University of Queensland. He joined the School of Computer Science and Engineering at The University of New South Wales in 1997. In 2005, he was a visiting researcher in Microsoft Asia Research Lab and visited Tokyo University as a JSPS fellow. He has supervised many graduate students. Xuemin currently is an associate editor of ACM Transactions on Database Systems. Xuemin Lin's principal research areas are *databases* and *graph visualisation*.

Professor Alistair Moffat completed a BSc(Honors) and PhD in 1979 and 1986 respectively, both at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Since then he has been a member of the academic staff at The University of Melbourne, where he holds appointments as Professor of Computer Science (2002-) and as Head of the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (2007-2011). Alistair has extensive research interests in the areas of text and index compression, source coding methods, and information retrieval. He is an author of three books (*Managing Gigabytes*, 1999; *Compression and Coding Algorithms*, 2002; and *Programming, Problem Solving and Abstraction with C*, 2003); and of more than 150-refereed technical papers. Alistair was awarded a Carrick Citation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in the first round of these awards in 2006 and has also been recognized within the University for his teaching contributions. In 2010, he received a Teaching Award from the Melbourne School of Engineering for excellence in teaching.

Professor Yanchun Zhang is a Professor and the Director of Centre for Applied Informatics at Victoria University. He obtained a PhD degree in Computer Science from The University of Queensland in 1991. He was a research fellow at UQ and CRC Distributed Systems Technology from 1991 to 1993, and an academic member in the Department of Mathematics and Computing at University of Southern Queensland from 1994 to June 2003. He has been active in areas of database and information systems, distributed databases, Web and internet technologies, Web information systems, Web data management, Web mining, Web search, Web services, and e-Research. He has published over 200 research papers in refereed international journals and conference proceedings, and authored/edited over dozen books/proceedings and journal special issues. His research has been supported by ARC Discovery (formally Large Grant) and e-Research Projects. He is a member of Member Supporting Committee of Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing. He is the winner of 2005 Victoria

University Vice-Chancellor's Medal for Excellence in Research. He is currently communication expert panel member of Cheung Kong Scholars Programme from Ministry of Education of China (since 2006), and a member of Australian Research Council (ARC) College of Experts (2008-2010), and a steering committee member of The ARC Research Network in Enterprise Information Infrastructure (EII). He held honorary professor positions at several universities/institutions in China, including Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan University, Xiamen University, Northeastern University, Hubei University, Hebei Polytechnic University and Hebei Normal University, and visiting professor position at Nagoya University in Japan (2006/7). He is Editor-In-Chief of World Wide Web: Internet and Web Information Systems, the Editor of Web Information Systems Engineering and Internet Technologies Book Series by Springer, and Chairman of Web Information Systems Engineering (WISE) Society. He is Australian representative of International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) 's Working Group WG6.4 on Internet Applications Engineering.

Professor Justin Zobel is leading the Computing for Life Sciences initiative within National ICT Australia's Victorian Laboratory. He received his PhD from the University of Melbourne and for many years was based in the School of CS&IT at RMIT University, where he led the Search Engine group. He is an Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Information Retrieval, an associate editor of ACM Transactions on Information Systems and of Information Processing & Management, and was until recently Treasurer of ACM SIGIR. In the research community, he is best known for his role in the development of algorithms for efficient text retrieval. He is the author of "Writing for Computer Science" and his interests include search, bioinformatics, fundamental data structures, and research methods.

Proposed Time of Year

The suggested dates in accordance with previous conferences for the ACM International Conference on Multimedia 2015 are either **11-16 October** or **18-23 October**. These dates are tentative, and may be re-considered later in order to better coordinate with other major database conferences and travel convenience.

Australia's only subtropical capital city, Brisbane enjoys an all year round sunny climate with average daytime temperatures of 22 to 30 degrees Celsius. During the early summer month of October, the climate is particularly attractive - min average temp is 18C and Max is 28C - and this is one of the most popular times of the year to visit Brisbane, for sunshine and beaches.

Structure of the Conference

We will consider the option to allocate four days for the main conference, and two extra days for workshops immediately before and after the conference dates.

- **11 October:** Tutorials
- **12 October (Mon)**: Pre-conference workshops
- **13 October (Tue)**: ACM MM 2015 Conference (1st day)
- **14 October (Wed)**: ACM MM 2015 Conference (2nd day)
- **15 October (Thu)**: ACM MM 2015 Conference (3rd day)
- **16 October (Fri)**: ACM MM 2015 Conference (4th day if needed), 2nd day of workshops

Draft Budget

This budget is based on a comprehensive list of explicit assumptions, which can be varied to perform sensitivity analyses such as change of exchange rates, various fees and costs, number and composition of registrations. It is important to note that this is very much a first draft and many of the items listed in the budget may not be required, and additional items may be needed. Brisbane is a very affordable city and we are confident that this conference could be run at a profit.

It is also important to note that our principle is to keep the registration fees for each attendee as low as possible. We rely on sponsorships to cover most of the fixed costs including venue hire, keynote and invited speakers, and administration. We target to attract about 500-700 attendees for ACM MM 15. A summary of our estimated revenue and expenses is presented in the following two tables. The conference registration includes the cost for attending the workshops in order to encourage attendees to participate in all activities of the conference. These tables show a gross revenue of AU$311,750 and a gross expense of AU$293,500, resulting in a surplus (without any sponsor) of AU$18,250 (US$ 16613). The Finance and Registration Co-Chairs, with the General Co-Chairs, are responsible for managing the budget carefully to keep it in balance.

MAJOR INCOME			
	Quantity	Fee	Total
Adv. Registration – ACM Members	280	$750	$210,000
Adv. Registration – ACM Nonmembers	25	$900	$22,500
Adv. Registration - Student Members	220	$250	$55,000
Onsite Registration – ACM Members	15	$850	$12,750
Onsite Registration – ACM Nonmembers	5	$1,000	$5,000
Onsite Registration - Student Members	5	$300	$1,500
Exhibition Booth	5	$1,000	$5,000
GROSS REVENUE			**$311,750**

EXPENSES			
	Quantity	Fee	Total
Publicity		$2,000	$2,000
Committee Expenses (Dinners)	50	$50	$2,500
Registration/Conference Bag	600	$25	$15,000
On-Site Logistical Expenses		$150,000	$150,000
Conference Food &Beverage		$60,000	$60,000
DVD Proceedings	700	$20	$14,000
U.S. Keynote Speakers (Honoraria)	2	$2,500	$5,000
Non-U.S. Keynote Speakers (Honorarium)	1	$3,000	$3,000
Tutorial Speakers (Honoraria)	18	$1,000	$18,000
TPC Meeting			$12,000
Credit-card Expenses			$8,000
Awards			$4,000
GROSS EXPENSE			**$293,500**

SURPLUS (w/o any sponsor)	$311,750 - $293,500 = $18, 250

Promotion and Sponsorship

We will target a number of organisations in Australia and multinational IT companies with a view to obtaining sponsorship. The following is a list of organisations we will be approaching regarding the different levels of sponsorship. Our target is to secure **a minimum of AU$60K sponsorship**. We anticipate a tiered sponsorship structure:

- Platinum Sponsors (AU$20,000): 2

- Gold Sponsors (AU$10,000): 2

- Silver Sponsors (AU$5,000): 4

- Bronze Sponsors (AU$3,000): 4

We welcome assistance from the ACM MM steering committee to secure sponsorships from other multinationals.

Local Participation

The Australian database community has grown rapidly over the last five years, with several internationally recognized groups at The University of Melbourne, The University of Sydney, The University of New South Wales, and The University of Queensland. The ARC Research Network in Enterprise Information Infrastructure [EII] has played a major role in the advancement of database research among major universities in Australia, the CSIRO ICT Centre, NICTA, other government R&D groups, and leading edge customers. There has also been significant inroad into collaboration with leading international industry research labs, like Microsoft Research Asia, and SAP. EII is a database-focused national organization that works to network ICT researchers in Australia. EII has been running a popular and successful PhD school annually for the last 7 years. In 2010, it attracted 90 PhD students and Early Career Researchers from all around Australia.

EII's membership currently numbers 1,197 researchers, made up of 53 senior professors, 624 academic and research staff, 70 Early Career Researchers, 450 students. There are 242 members from overseas and 955 from Australia. A total of 79 participants are from industry, 128 from government departments or government-funded organizations, and 990 from universities.

The Australian database community also enjoys strong links with other Asia Pacific countries such as New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Singapore and China, which provide a foundation for active promotion among our networks in this region. Over the last decade, we have witnessed many more leading companies setting up research labs in Australia, such as SAP, Google, Oracle and IBM. NICTA and CSIRO both have active database researchers, and it can be expected that these organizations would provide strong support, including local sponsorship.

Australia recently hosted an extremely successful large database conference – the 10th IEEE International Conference on Data Mining, ICDM. ICDM 2010, held last December in Sydney, was one of the largest ICDM conferences in terms of attendance, with a strong local as well as international participation.

Event Infrastructure

Conference venues

In terms of essential event infrastructure and meeting facilities, Brisbane can offer a first-class range of options. Several venues, as detailed below, provide the perfect fit for the ACM MM 2015 conference requirements. Proposals are provided in the Appendix B. In addition, Brisbane offers a wealth of unique and inspiring locations for conference special events. Venues range from riverboats and parklands to heritage buildings and stylish, contemporary function venues.

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre – ACM MM 2015 Preferred Venue

Acclaimed as Australia's most awarded venue and officially ranked by the International Association of Congress Centres as one of the world's top five convention centres, the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) offers first-rate facilities, excellent customer service, Green Globe benchmarking status and a prime location in the heart of the leisure and lifestyle precinct of South Bank in Brisbane. BCEC's $130 million expansion featuring two main levels for meetings and events is due for opening in 2011 and will establish the Centre as Australia's most flexible meetings and events venue with three stand-alone plenary halls and 42 meeting rooms.

Audio Visual

BCEC's experienced Audio Visual and Event Production Team manages one of the largest event production operations and widest inventories of presentation equipment, with more than 13 years venue experience and some 10,000 events in total. One of the benefits is that BCEC's equipment has been specifically purchased to maximize the Centre's facilities and the highly skilled, creative technical staff are located on-site. BCEC's highly acclaimed Speakers' Presentation Centre is the first of its kind in Australia, setting new benchmarks for personalized service and support for speakers' presentations:

- Deliver and transfer of speakers' submissions to the conference venue server
- Fully networked and equipped preparation rooms
- Welcome reception lounge with plasma screen networked to plenary rooms
- Onsite support from experienced AV professionals
- Latest presentation technology

Information Technology

BCEC provides an extensive range of IT equipment and services to meet conference delegate needs including:

- Reliable access scalable from 128Kbps to over 90Mbps
- Wireless networking
- Internet services including an internet café
- 2,000 networking points throughout the Centre
- Gigabit fibre optic backbone to all areas

Hilton Brisbane

Renowned for its superior service, towering atrium and prime location in the heart of the Queen Street Mall shopping precinct, the Hilton Brisbane is a 5 star favourite with conference groups and business travellers. Premium leisure facilities, stylish rooms (319 in total) and a dedicated events floor combine to deliver the ultimate in form, function and convenience.

The Sebel & Citigate King George Square

Along with its prime city location and stylish modern look, The Sebel & Citigate King George Square has the added appeal of holding 438 accommodation rooms in two styles – 4.5 star in the Sebel tower and 4 star in the Citigate tower. A diverse range of meeting and banqueting spaces provide scope for intimate functions or large events of up 1,000 delegates.

Sofitel Brisbane Central

Conveniently located in the heart of the city above Central Train Station, Sofitel Brisbane Central offers the ultimate in 5 star luxury and service. With its refined elegance and personal service, this is one of the city's best accommodation experiences. Along with 429 beautifully appointed rooms, the Sofitel offers Brisbane's largest, fully integrated hotel conference facility with capacity for 1,100 delegates theatre style.

Accommodation

Brisbane is well placed to cater to ACM MM's accommodation requirements. From five-star international hotels to budget-friendly options, Brisbane delivers a superb cross-section of accommodation alternatives. Trusted brands include the Hilton, Marriott and Holiday Inn, all with the convenience of inner-city locations. Independent operators present boutique alternatives and low-budget options, including motels, backpacker hostels and student accommodation. In additional, apartment style accommodation is plentiful, perfect for delegates who choose to extend their stay or

bring families with them, as they are self-contained and offer all the amenities you would expect to find in your own home.

The table below indicates how many hotels and accommodation rooms Brisbane offers* per star rating and the expected starting price for that room, per night.

Star Rating	Number of Hotels	Number of Rooms	$AUD
5 Star	8	1,700	From $235
4 Star	84	6,828	From $167
3 Star	117	4,100	From $132
2 Star	18	430	From $99
Non rated	10	170	From $50
Total	**237**	**13,228**	

*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Survey of Tourist Accommodation for March Quarter 2009. Based on hotels, motels and serviced apartments with five or more rooms

Benefits of Meeting in Brisbane

Clean and green

With a river that winds its way around the city and the immense parklands of South Bank lapping at the edge of the central business district, Brisbane holds the natural environment close to its heart. Through Brisbane City Council's Green Heart CitySmart initiative, local residents and businesses have committed to a program of clean and green environmental initiatives designed to make Brisbane Australia's most sustainable city and a carbon neutral destination by 2026.

Affordable

For several years, the Runzheimer Guide to Daily Travel Prices [travel.runzheimer.com] has rated Brisbane as one of the world's lowest cost meeting destinations. With low on-the-ground costs, Brisbane offers an affordable conference experience.

Easily accessible

Brisbane Airport is consistently recognised as one of the world's best and with a $4.2 billion (AUD) infrastructure and improvement program in progress, a convenient city location and over 30 airlines collectively operating more than 3,250 international and domestic flights each week, Brisbane offers visiting delegates exceptional airport access.

Compact and walkable

A simple grid system of city streets, an expansive network of pedestrian paths, parks, bridges and boardwalks and year-round blue skies offer delegates the freedom to explore the city and access key venues on foot. Alternatively, the fully-integrated public transport system provides visitors with a city-wide network of easy travel options.

A leader in innovation and industry

With a smart balance between progress and sustainability, Brisbane is firmly establishing an influential foothold in the international community and making a name for itself as a city of skills and strengths in emerging knowledge-based industries. With a growing global presence in a range of sectors including creative industries and healthcare and life sciences, Brisbane offers excellent links to knowledge leaders and a world-class research and development community.

A proven performer

With a diverse range of successful international and national conferences to its name, Brisbane has a confirmed reputation for hosting great events. The city's vibrant, progressive energy has delivered (and will continue to deliver) success stories such as the World Hydrogen Energy Conference, World Dance Alliance Global Summit, International Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation and International Congress of Ecology.

Accessibility

On the ground and in the air, Brisbane delivers a first-class travel and transport network. Brisbane Airport is consistently recognised as one of the world's best and the city's integrated public transport system ensures delegates have efficient and cost-effective access to key sites and locations.

Brisbane Airport

Located just 20 minutes from the city centre, Brisbane Airport is an award-winning facility that offers world-class facilities, extensive national and international connections and the convenience of 24 hour operations. The Airport also offers excellent services for groups including priority parking for coaches and dedicated check-in and signage opportunities. Brisbane Airport's awards include: 2009 Best Airport for Customer Service (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission); 2008 Capital City Airport of the Year (Australian Airports Association Annual Awards for Australian Aviation Industry Excellence); and 2008 Best Airport Asia-Pacific (Skytrax World Airport Awards).

Airport transfers

Brisbane Airport's close proximity to the city centre provides visiting delegates with a range of budget-friendly transfer options. In addition to the Brisbane Airtrain service, delegates can select from shuttle/coach services, limousine transfers and taxis. The award-winning Airtrain is an increasingly popular option for conference delegates transferring from the domestic and international Airport terminals to the city centre. The 20 minute express Airport to city service runs every 15 minutes during peak hours stopping at five inner-city stations.

Flights

Travellers to Brisbane enjoy advanced facilities and an extensive network of flights that connect Brisbane Airport to over 30 international destinations and 44 domestic destinations. Over 58,000 international seats arrive into Brisbane each week – over a third of which bring passengers through Asia – the transfer hub for those flying from major European destinations. Direct flights to Brisbane arrive several times a day not only from Asia but also from North America, the Middle East, New Zealand and the Pacific. Brisbane Airport Corporation expects international access in to Brisbane to grow over the next three years. The growth is expected to come from existing carriers utilising larger aircrafts, as well as increased services to current and new destinations in Asia, North America and the Middle East. The map featured in Appendix D highlights the international destinations that can be directly accessed from Brisbane. Frequent additional connections are available through Sydney (a 1.5 hour flight from Brisbane) and Melbourne (a 2.5 hour flight).

Direct Flights to Brisbane

The following table details international destinations that can be accessed directly from Brisbane (dependent on the Airline flown), the number of weekly flights and the flight length.

International City	Flying Time (hours)	Flights into Brisbane (per week)
Asia		
Bandar Seri Bengawan, Bruni	7	6
Bangkok, Thailand	9	5
Denpasar, Bali	6	Daily
Dubai, United Arab Emirates	14	Double Daily
Beijing, China	11	Double Daily
Guangzhou, China	9	3
Hong Kong, China	8.5	14
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	8	6
Mumbai, India	17	3
Seoul, South Korea	10	3
Singapore, Singapore	8	36
Taipei, Taiwan	9	6
Tokyo, Japan	8.5	Daily
New Zealand		
Auckland	3	50
Christchurch	3	24
Wellington	3	Double daily
North America		
Los Angeles, USA	13	Double daily
Seattle, USA	16 (1 stop)	
Vancouver, Canada	16 (1 stop)	
South America (1 stop)		
Rio, Brazil	20	
Santiago, Chile	18	
Europe (1 stop)		
Amsterdam	23	
London	23	
Rome	21	
Paris	23	
Frankfurt	22	
Istanbul	19	

Source: Courtesy of Brisbane Airport Corporation, 2012

Passports and visas

All international travellers (with the exception of most New Zealand passport holders) must obtain a valid visa before travelling to Australia, which is usually a simple process. As a general guide, travellers are encouraged to apply for their Australian visa well in advance of their planned departure date. European passport holders can apply for a visa online through the Australian Government's eVisitor system. Passport holders from a range of other countries (including the United States of America) can apply for a visa online through the Australian Government's Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) system. Alternatively, passport holders outside of Australia can apply for an ETA through a travel agent, airline

office, specialist service provider or Australian visa office. The eVisitor and ETA systems provide the electronic equivalent of a visa for the short-term traveller, which replaces the traditional passport visa label or stamp. Most applications are processed instantly: eta.immi.gov.au

International Event Coordinator Network

For conference organisers and delegates specialised visa advice is available through the Australian Government's International Event Coordinator Network (IECN). Located across the country, IECN staff work with event organisers to provide free advice and visa processing assistance for international travellers invited to speak at, perform in or attend an event in Australia: immi.gov.au/visitors/event-organisers-participants/iecn.htm.

Transport

Public transport

Brisbane's integrated public transport system provides delegates with a city-wide network of road, rail and river options. Integrated ticketing across trains, buses, CityCats (high-speed catamarans) and ferries, allow for streamlined delegate travel.

Visitors to Brisbane are able to travel across the city on one cashless ticket called a 'Go Card' making getting around easy, simple and cost effective. Issued by Translink the Go Card is a touch-on touch-off system, which can be used on the city's buses, trains, CityCats and ferry services. A Go Card can be purchased at the Translink office located in the Brisbane Visitor Information Centre, on Queen Street Mall or visit www.translink.com.au.

Train

Brisbane's rail service is a comprehensive network that provides easy access to key destinations including the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Bank and the Roma Street Transit Centre, as well as Moreton Bay, the Scenic Rim and various destinations around Queensland. While the award-winning Airtrain service provides a direct and fast journey between both airports and the city centre.

Bus

Brisbane's modern fleet of buses service all corners of the city and key centres of interest including major shopping centres, train stations and ferry terminals. Special NightLink bus services run on popular transport routes after midnight on Friday and Saturday evenings and the CityGlider bus service links the city centre to the inner-city suburbs of Newstead and West End through a high frequency rapid bus transit system.

CityCats and ferries

A favourite with both locals and travellers, Brisbane's iconic CityCat and ferry services offer one of the most enjoyable commuter services. Spanning almost 20 kilometres of the Brisbane River, the CityCats provide easy, enjoyable access to key city spots.

TransLink conference and special event pass

The TransLink Conference and Special Event pass provides visiting delegates with a convenient public transport ticketing solution which allows easy travel between conference venues, accommodation and major attractions.

Additional options

Walking

With a compact city centre, a pedestrian mall covering several blocks of the city heart and two inner-city cross-river footbridges, Brisbane's key business, entertainment and cultural precincts are easy to navigate by foot. An extensive network of pedestrian paths, bikeways and boardwalks link key inner-city and urban village destinations and provide an especially easy transit option for delegates based in the city and meeting in the South Bank vicinity.

Cycling

Brisbane is home to more than 1,200 kilometres of bike paths and cycling is a great way to get behind the scenes of the city. Bikes can be hired from operators located in the city and in late 2010 Brisbane City Council introduced the CityCycle program – Australia's first large-scale public bike-hire initiative. Brisbane's Green Cabs provide another eco-friendly inner-city transport option.


Brisbane Visitor Information & Booking Centre (BVIBC):

Located on the Queen Street Mall between Albert Street and Edward Street) the BVIBC is a national award-winning tourism facility that provides visitors with a warm welcome and all the information and assistance they need to ensure they have a memorable Brisbane holiday experience. The VIC is the smiling, welcoming – and very knowledgeable – face of Brisbane.

Affordability

Brisbane offers domestic and international delegates great value for money. Brisbane's favourable prices for accommodation, food, beverages, entertainment and shopping combine to make Brisbane one of the lowest cost meeting destinations in the world. The following graph shows how the average daily cost of a Brisbane delegate compares to other destinations (costs are calculated per delegate per day in USD).

Convention Delegate Cost Comparison
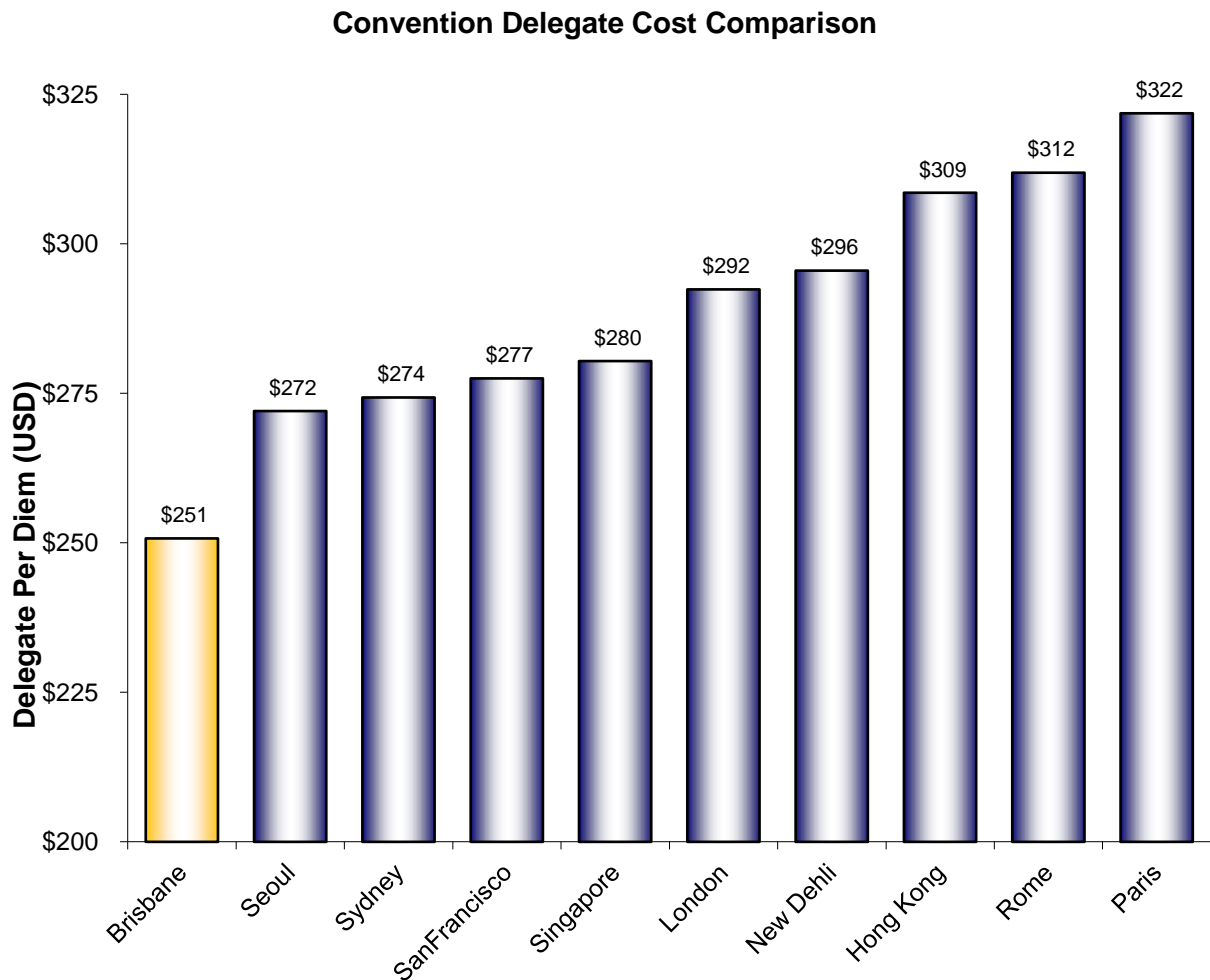
Source: Runzheimer Guide to Daily Travel Prices - travel.runzheimer.com (15 September 2010). Average total per diem in US dollars, including three meals and business class corporate accommodation. Note: Founded in 1933, Runzheimer International Ltd. is an international management consulting firm specializing in transportation, travel and living costs, serving businesses, government agencies, colleges, universities, and non-profit associations. The Guide to Daily Travel Prices has been the industry's leading source of objective, travel cost benchmarking information for over 20 years. It includes hotel published and average daily rates for economy, first-class and deluxe properties, plus car rental, ground transportation, and meal cost data, as defined by Runzheimer using industry standard criteria.

Attractions & Activities

From urban experiences to outdoor adventures, Brisbane presents a unique mix of leisure activities for easy incorporation into pre and post touring and partner programs.

Outdoors and active

Boasting 1,820 parks and reserves, 720 kilometres of waterways and more than 1,200 kilometres of bike paths, Brisbane is the ultimate urban playground for the outdoor enthusiast. High-energy activities include kayaking by the CBD, abseiling the inner-city cliffs and climbing the Story Bridge. Equally popular recommendations include cycling the RiverWalk, strolling through South Bank's parklands or taking a swing at the Victoria Park Golf Complex.

Explore the arts

With a growing reputation for hosting exclusive international art exhibitions, unique festivals and vibrant live music acts, Brisbane offers exceptional opportunities for creative experiences. The South Bank cultural precinct is a destination in its own right and includes must-do attractions such as the Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Queensland Museum.

Wine and dine

Known for a strong tradition of serving up grand steaks, great beer gardens and fresh seafood, Brisbane's wining and dining scene has evolved into one of Australia's most sophisticated. Fine-dining establishments and urban village eateries abound across the city, while Fortitude Valley has become the premier after-hours entertainment hub where bars, bands and nightclubs take centre stage.

Shopping treats

From high-end to handcrafted, Brisbane's Queen Street Mall is Queensland's premier shopping destination. This half-kilometre shopping strip located in the heart of the city is home to 700+ retail outlets and a growing mix of local, national and international designer labels and flagship stores. Funky urban villages and a vibrant market scene also offer up great opportunities to source unique Australian items and one-of-a-kind souvenirs.

Wildlife wonders

With a marine sanctuary on Brisbane's doorstep and the world's largest koala sanctuary located along an idyllic stretch of the river, Brisbane offers a great array of native animal encounters. Tangalooma Island Resort – a regional highlight and easy day-trip option –provides visitors with the chance to connect with the local marine life through whale-watching cruises and nightly dolphin-feeding sessions. Back in the city, a short cruise provides access to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary where visitors can cuddle koalas, feed kangaroos and encounter an array of native animals.

Beach escapes

Brisbane's Moreton Bay and Islands is the only Australian destination to offer a marine sanctuary and significant island experiences within such close proximity to a capital city. Located less than an hour from the city centre, this pristine environment delivers a variety of summer-inspired activities including surfing, snorkelling, sailing and sand boarding. And for those looking for the high gloss beach experience, the famed beaches of the Gold and Sunshine Coasts are both just a short day-trip drive from Brisbane.

Country pursuits

Against a backdrop of craggy mountains and country fields, Brisbane's Scenic Rim and Country Valley regions offer a rustic promise of clean air and home-style hospitality. Best explored in a leisurely fashion, these rural regions entice visitors with their warm and engaging spirit and exceptional offer of wineries, country pubs, bush walking tracks, picnic places and antique shops.

Theme park thrills

Australia's most famous theme parks and family-friendly day-trip options are all located just a short drive from Brisbane. Hours of easy entertainment for all ages await at Australia Zoo, Dreamworld, WhiteWater World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet 'n' Wild. Also high on Brisbane's day-trip must-do list are the Australian Outback Spectacular and Underwater World.

Family friendly

Known as a lifestyle destination, Brisbane is exceptionally family friendly. In this warm and welcoming environment, families can find hours of entertainment and amusement. Kids – big and small – especially love the South Bank Parklands, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, the Queensland Museum's Sciencentre, the Gallery of Modern Art's Children's Art Centre and The Workshops Rail Museum.

Engage in the Indigenous

Home to a rich Indigenous history, Brisbane celebrates its ancient Aboriginal ancestry with a range of interactive experiences. Learn the story of this city as you find your talent for boomerang throwing under the cliffs of Kangaroo Point. Discover the cultural diversity of this country with a visit to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre, or uncover the secrets of Australia's native plants with a bush tucker walking tour.

Pre and Post Touring

Queensland

The Great Barrier Reef

Experience the world-renowned Great Barrier Reef in just one day with the Lady Elliot Island Great Barrier Reef day-trip. This trip allows visitors to view one of the most pristine sections of Australia's Great Barrier Reef from the air and above and below the water, all in one day.

Moreton Bay and Islands

For the quintessential sun, surf and sand experience, Brisbane's Moreton Bay and Islands region is the perfect prescription. Located less than an hour from the city centre, this pristine environment of bright blue seas and skies, allows visitors to fill their days with a swag of summer inspired activities.

Queensland's Outback

Rugged and engaging, full of colour and character, Queensland's Outback is a place of epic landscapes – immense deserts, red sunsets and shooting stars; a place to stir the soul.

Australia

For the avid traveller who wants to see more of Australia, Brisbane's extensive network of domestic flights easily allows visitors to expand the itinerary to include other iconic Australian destinations such as Sydney and the Northern Territory, home to Ayers Rock (Uluru).

Sydney

Think Sydney and that big, beautiful harbour. An icon of Australia, Sydney lives and breathes energy and exuberance. From the white-capped waves of Bondi Beach to the coat hanger curves of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, there are attractions aplenty to amuse and entertain.

The "Red Centre"

The Northern Territory's Kakadu and Uluru will give you a raw, authentic encounter with Australia. From sunrise to sundown, the Top End offers an unforgettable experience of epic waterfalls, exotic wildlife and Indigenous insights.

Contact Details

Should any further information be required for the final decision-making process, please contact:

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