Message from the Technical Program Chairs

HEMA A. MURTHY
Indian Institute of Technology Madras

PREETI RAO
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

PAAVO ALKU
Aalto University, Aalto

PRASANTA KUMAR GHOSH
Indian Institute of Science Bangalore

We are very proud to have had the privilege to put together the technical program for Interspeech 2018, in the Indian sub-continent for the first time ever! Over the past decade or more, a growing number of Indian academics and scientists have been participating in Interspeech in its different exciting locations across the globe. We knew we had a huge challenge on our hands, as Technical Program Chairs, to get this edition of the conference in India to live up fully to the long-standing reputation of Interspeech as the most topical, while also comprehensive, speech research conference.

We were truly gratified by the numbers that greeted us on submission closing date. We received 1668 contributed papers, and would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the authors across 63 countries. The weeks following the submission deadline were filled with organising review assignments and delegating papers for review with the help of a very able team of 48 Area Chairs across the 12 technical areas. We deeply appreciate the promptness with which the Area Chairs responded to our (all too frequent) requests for updates and their commitment to ensuring the timely completion of reviews and the subsequent decision making. Above all, our large team of 1319 reviewers deserves huge thanks for high-quality reviews that made a great technical program possible. We are happy to mention that over 85% of the submissions received four or more reviews. The reviews were indicative of the overall high quality of the submissions, and resulted in the acceptance of a total of 749 papers (acceptance rate = 54%). The ensuing TPC meeting in Hyderabad in May 2018 saw the vibrant exchange of ideas leading to the crystallization of the technical program. We gratefully acknowledge the significant support of the entire ISCA Board in the planning of the program as we now see it. We would like to thank ISCA President John Hansen and the entire team for their valuable advice on various aspects, and for being so encouraging about the new initiatives proposed by the Interspeech India organising team.

Now, for a quick glimpse of the technical program - we have 9 technical sessions each having regular oral, poster, and Show & Tell sessions. We have a glittering line-up of Plenary Talks. In addition, for the first time this year, we shall have Perspective Talks that will offer a bird's-eye view of research in a specific topic. These talks will serve as introduction to the uninitiated, while offering potentially new insights to experts. Interspeech 2018 received several excellent special session proposals including those relating to the theme, such as Indian language speech technology, and technologies for code-switching. The Special Sessions received a large number of submissions and constitute a prominent component of the technical program. We also have a parallel stream for Show & Tell demonstrations throughout the program. The regular technical program is preceded by the conference tutorials, judiciously selected by the 4-member Tutorials Committee from a number of submitted proposals. Several exciting Satellite Events are slated for days both before and after Interspeech in Hyderabad and at other locations in India.

India is a land of many languages, and this linguistic diversity presents many a challenge in spoken language technology, making it the perfect backdrop for Interspeech. We look forward to welcoming you to Hyderabad, and making sure that you have an interesting, enjoyable and productive conference experience!

Hema A. Murthy   Preeti Rao   Paavo Alku   Prasanta Kumar Ghosh
Technical Program Chairs