



Press Kit



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The 2005 International Research Conference on Innovations in Information Technology (IIT'05)

Emirates Towers Hotel, Dubai, UAE

September 26-28, 2005

<http://www.it-innovations.ae>

Press Release

UAE University and Dubai eGovernment Team up to Organize Major Research Conference

The UAE University and Dubai eGovernment announced today the second annual International Research Conference on Innovations in IT (IIT'05) to be held at the Emirates Towers Hotel in Dubai on September 26, 27 and 28. IIT'05 brings together international research scientists and eminent members of the IT industry to discuss the latest IT innovations in order to better serve society. Conference participants include: Mr. Mark De Simone, Vice President, Middle East and Africa (MEA), Cisco Systems Inc., Dr. Krishna Nathan, Vice President & Director of the IBM Research Laboratory, Zurich and Dr. Vijay Chandru, Chairman & CEO, Strand Life Sciences, as well as over 60 scientists from around the world. His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al-Nahayan, Minister of Education and Chancellor of UAE University, will attend the opening ceremony and give the opening address. Mr. Mark De Simone and Dr. Vijay Chandru will give the keynote addresses. IIT'05 is organized by the College of Information Technology of UAE University in coordination with Dubai e-Government.

IIT'05 is sponsored by Cisco, the UAE Air Force and Air Defense, Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority, ERWDA, Dell and Emirates Computers. "We are very grateful to the conference sponsors who are making an important contribution to invigorating scientific research and development in the UAE and the region," said Dr. Abdulla Khanbashi, Provost of UAE University. "We are also very thankful for our partnership with Dubai eGovernment that was pivotal to bringing about this conference," he added.

"It is an honor for Cisco to keynote this important event this year, said Ghazi Atallah, Cisco Vice President. IIT'05 is considered a major regional conference and is making its mark internationally as evidenced by the number of prominent international scientific journals which are covering the conference," he added.

"The International Research Conference on Innovations in Information Technology is building a strong tradition as a conference that values quality research" said Dr. Rafic Makki, Dean of the College of Information Technology and IIT'05 conference Vice General Chair. "The choice of Dubai for the venue was based on Dubai's appeal as a major hub for business and the IT industry in the Gulf region" he added.

"This year we are organizing two special sessions: a panel entitled "IT Production – Can the Middle-East Do It", and a "Showcase" session to draw attention to some of the latest IT being produced and deployed in the Middle-East," said Dr. Khaled Shuaib, Chair of the conference Program Committee.

The conference's Distinguished Research Innovation Award, an annual award in recognition of the kind of scholarship and service to IT research and development that helps shape the future of IT, will be presented to Dr. Krishna Nathan, IBM Vice President and Director of the IBM Zurich Research Center.

The conference timing was chosen to coincide with Gitex, the world's third largest IT exhibit, to provide opportunities for the conference participants to engage their thoughts and ideas with industry experts that visit or exhibit at Gitex from all over the world. Cisco is also sponsoring the Cisco Research Excellence Award which is an annual award presented to one of the College of IT faculty through a thorough review process involving Cisco engineers and scientists. The award will be presented this year at the Gala dinner of the conference.

All research papers were submitted on-line and screened for quality by more than 80 international referees. "As a result of the rigorous screening process, only about half of the 120 research papers submitted were accepted for inclusion in the conference proceedings. IIT'05 was selected by four prominent international journals to publish select research papers from the conference in these international journals.

In addition to the technical program, IIT'05 is organizing the following special sessions:

- Panel Session: "Producing Information Technology - Can the Middle-East do it?"

Panelists:

- Dr. Yergen Knorr, CEO Dubai Silicon Oasis
 - Mr. Mark DeSimone: VP Cisco EMEA
 - Dr. Krishna Nathan: VP and Director of IBM Zurich Research Lab
 - Dr. Vijay Chandru, Chairman & CEO, Strand Life Sciences
- IT Middle-East Showcase: Short Demos (CIT, PicoPita, Shadi Systems, Dubai e-government)
 - Tutorials:
 - Tutorial # 1: Application Oriented Networking (Cisco Systems)
 - Tutorial # 2: Design Challenges for Nano Technologies (CIT)

Additional information on the conference can be found at: <http://www.it-innovations.ae>

ABOUT UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY

UAE University is the premier national university in the UAE. The University has nine world class colleges, from Information Technology to Food Systems, serving the UAE and the region with world-class research and academic programs. UAE University is dedicated to the continued development of applied research programs that benefit the UAE community and the region. The University plays a significant role in leading cultural, social and economic development in the country. For more information on the university, visit: <http://www.uaeu.ac.ae>

The College of Information Technology provides seven degree programs, including computer engineering, computer science, e-commerce, information security, information systems, network engineering, and software engineering. The College has a world-class faculty engaged in cutting-edge research and development. For more information about the College, visit: <http://www.cit.uaeu.ac.ae>.

Conference Theme

The conference is focused on the latest innovations in IT and applications including: Network and Information Security, Information Systems Integration, Internet and Communication Technologies, Web Engineering and Applications, E-Commerce Architectures, Artificial and Intelligent Systems, Total Quality Management, Knowledge and Content Management, Data Mining Techniques and Knowledge Discovery, Indexing and Search Technologies, Enterprise Resource Planning, VLSI Chip Design and Test Technologies, Computer Networks, Supply Chain Management, Software Engineering, Decision Support Systems, Neural Networks, E-Government Strategies and Implementations, Wireless Technologies, Information Legal Issues, Business Process Modeling, Nano-Computing, Best Practices of IT Implementation in Public/Private Organizations, The Role of IT in Improving Management Practices, and Research Collaboration with Regional and International Institutions.

Special Issues of International Journals

The editors-in-chief of the following journals agreed to dedicate special issues for this year's conference. Quality papers will be considered for further publication in these special issues:

- Business Process management Journal. Emerald Publishers (<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/bpmj.htm>)
- Journal of Electronic Commerce in Organizations (<http://www.irma-international.org/journals/details.asp?id=471>)
- International Journal of Intelligent Information Technologies (<http://www.irma-international.org/journals/details.asp?id=4295>)
- International Journal of Business Data Communications and Networking (<http://www.irma-international.org/journals/details.asp?id=4293>)

IIT'05 Conference Organization Office

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Fist Keynote Speaker



Mark De Simone

Vice President, Middle East and Africa (MEA), Cisco Systems Inc.

Mark De Simone is Vice President for Cisco's operations in the Middle East and Africa, a position he has held since July 2004.

With responsibility for running Cisco's field sales operations, technical engineering and marketing for these emerging and developing markets, De Simone is responsible for Cisco's business in 84 countries and Cisco operations and offices in more than 15 countries. Working with senior government and business leaders across the region, he is tasked with developing Cisco's business in a territory that has seen consistent year-over-year growth and is currently experiencing a period of deregulation in the telecoms sector.

De Simone has held a number of senior sales and management positions at Cisco, most recently serving as Vice President of Market Development, Channels, Alliances and Corporate Marketing at Cisco Systems EMEA, where he led the Market Development, Global Systems Integrators, SP Channels, Alliances and Corporate Marketing organizations. He joined Cisco in 2001 as the Vice President of Technology Solutions and Corporate Marketing for Cisco Systems, EMEA.

With over 22 years industry experience he has built a strong global understanding of customer requirements in a number of senior management roles, most recently as Executive Vice President of Storm Telecommunications and AduroNet, two advanced services telecommunications operators in Europe and as Vice President of Global Marketing for Lucent Technologies. He has also served as Vice President of 3COM-US Robotics' European operations and spent five years with General Electric, both in Paris and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At GE, Mark was the VP of European Marketing and later General Manager for the company's Medical Network Products and Services business.

He is a frequent speaker at industry events throughout the Middle East and Africa and is a regular commentator in business and broadcast media throughout the region on ICT issues of relevance to these emerging and developing markets.

Mark is a former McKinsey associate and has an engineering degree from Cornell University and an MBA from Columbia University. He currently lives in London, England with his wife and three children.

Further information:

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Second Keynote Speaker



Prof. Vijay Chandru

Professor, Indian Institute of Science
Chairman & CEO, Strand Life Sciences

Vijay Chandru (PhD MIT 1982), is an academic entrepreneur. A Professor of Computer Science at the Indian Institute of Science, Vijay and three colleagues from the Indian Institute of Science founded Strand Life Sciences, India's first life sciences informatics company in October 2000. He currently serves as Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of the company. Strand is the recipient of the Frost & Sullivan Award for Excellence in Technology 2005 in the field of Bioinformatics. Strand has also been selected in the Red Herring Asia 100 – a list of 100 rising star technology companies in greater Asia.

Vijay is a co-founder and General Secretary of the Association of Biotech led Enterprises (ABLE). He is the recipient of several awards and honours: Hughes Fellow (1982-85), AT&T Fellow (1991-1993), elected Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences (1996 -), MCIT Dewang Mehta Award for Innovation in Information Technology (2001), University Grants Commission award for “Science and Society” (2003), AstraZeneca Chairman’s Award for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (2004) for contributions in computational biology.

Keynote Title: *Analytics, Modeling and Decision Support in Drug Discovery and Development*

Abstract: This talk will describe experiences, challenges and opportunities in applying the decision sciences to target discovery, drug discovery and development. The experiences are drawn from the speaker’s association with an inter-disciplinary team of scientists at Strand Life Sciences, India’s leading life sciences informatics company, a spin off from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Technologies developed at Strand for decision support include a very powerful data analysis and predictive modelling platform called “*avadis*”. The platform has been specialized for research biology applications particularly in the realm of gene expression studies to support the discovery of novel targets. *avadis* has also been instantiated as a modeling platform *admetis* for building predictive models of drug like properties of small molecules. The predictive chemoinformatics models become the basis for design of target focused small molecule libraries to improve the efficiency of lead generation in drug discovery. The same platform technology also has the potential to provide decision support in pre-clinical and clinical phases of drug development.

Distinguished Research Innovation Award



Dr. Krishna Nathan

Vice President & Director of the IBM Research Laboratory, Zurich

Dr. Krishna Nathan is Vice President, Services and Director of the IBM Zurich Research Laboratory. He joined IBM in 1991 at the T.J. Watson Research Center, where he held various research and management positions in pen computing, handwriting recognition, mobile and handheld platforms and related applications. From 1999 to 2001, Dr. Nathan was director for consumer voice systems in the software group, where he was responsible for world-wide sales, marketing and development of IBM's consumer line of speech products. Immediately prior to his current appointment he was Executive Assistant to the vice-chairman of the board of IBM.

Dr. Nathan holds a doctorate in electrical sciences from Brown University and a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Conference Detailed Schedule

<i>Day 1: Sept 26, 2005</i>			
9:00-11:00 am	Registration & Coffee		
11:00 – 12:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opening Ceremony</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening Speech: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al-Nahayan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UAE Minister of Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Speaker: Mark De Simone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vice President, Middle East and Africa (MEA), Cisco Systems</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Speaker: Vijay Chandru</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chairman & CEO, Strand Life Sciences</p>		
12:00-12:15	Coffee Break		
12:15-1:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Panel Session</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Producing Information Technology - Can the Middle-East do it?”</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p>Dr. Jurgen Knorr, CEO Dubai Silicon Oasis</p> <p>Mr. Mark DeSimone, VP Cisco EMEA</p> <p>Dr. Krishna Nathan, VP and Director of IBM Zurich Research Lab</p> <p>Dr. Vijay Chandru, Chairman & CEO, Strand Life Sciences</p> <p>Mr. Gilbert Lacroix, VP and General Manager, Computer Associates, DIC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Baka - Director of Information Technology, ADWEA</p>		
1:30 – 2:30	Lunch (Sponsored by CISCO)		
2:30 – 5:00	Technical Sessions and Tutorials		
Coffee Break 3:30-3:45	<p>Level 5 Congress Room 2</p> <p>Technical Session# 1 Information Security-1</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Ezedin S. Barka</p>	<p>Level 5 Congress Room 3</p> <p>Technical Session#2 Information and E-Business Systems-1</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Arthur D. Tatnall</p>	<p>Al-Badiah Room</p> <p>IT Middle-East Showcase</p> <p>Session Chair: Dr. Hazem El-Khatib</p>
8:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gala Dinner (Sponsored by IIT'05)</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Speaker: Krishna Nathan, VP and Director of IBM Zurich Research Lab</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cisco Research Award Ceremony</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Distiguated Research Innovation Award</p>		

Day 2: Sept 27, 2005			
8:00 -9:00	Coffee Break		
9:00 - 12:00	Level 5 Congress Room 1	Level 5 Congress Room 2	Level 5 Congress Room 3
Coffee Break 10:30-10:45	Technical Session# 3	Technical Session # 4	Technical Session # 5
	Communication Networks-1	Web & E-Services-1	Simulation and Modeling -1
	Session Chair: Dr. Soumaya S. Cherkaoui	Session Chair: Dr. Emad Batiana	Session Chair: Dr. Ashraf El-Najjar
		Session Co-Chair: Mr. Andrew Beer (IBM)	
12:00 – 2:00	Lunch Break		
2:00 – 5:00	Level 5 Congress Room 1	Level 5 Congress Room 2	Level 5 Congress Room 3
Coffee Break 3:00-3:15	Technical Session# 6	Technical Session # 7	Technical Session # 8
	Information & E-Business Systems-2:	Software Systems-1:	Communication Networks - 2
	Session Chair: Dr. Peter Fettke	Session Chair: Dr. Maria J. Pérez-Luque	Session Chair: Dr. Raed Shubair
Day 3: Sept 28, 2005			
8:00 – 9:00 am	Coffee Break		
9:00 – 12:00	Technical Sessions and Tutorials		
Coffee Break 10:30-10:45	Level 5 Congress Room 1	Level 5 Congress Room 2	Level 5 Congress Room 3
	Technical Session # 9	Technical Session # 10	Tutorial # 1:
	Information & E-Business Systems-3	Web & E-Services -2	Application Oriented Networking (Cisco Systems)
	Session Chair: Dr. Kasem Saleh	Session Chair: Dr. Gassan Qadah	Tutorial # 2:
		Session Co-Chair: Tony Fares (Oracle)	Design Challenges for Nano Technologies (CIT)
			Session Chair: Dr. Jihad Mohaidat (DSO), Co-Chair: Dr. Khaled Shuaib
12:00 – 2:00	Closing Ceremony Lunch (Sponsored by IIT'05)		
	Recommendations and Best Paper Award		