

Introduction

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) has a 10 year long tradition for organising annual workshops with the purpose of bringing together people and companies with a professional interest in machine translation and other tools for translation, be it users, researchers, developers, or providers who want to follow latest developments.

This time, for 2005, we have changed the format from a workshop to a conference, and we believe this was an excellent decision. Workshops are useful, and we will probably still have workshops also in the coming years, but the conference format gave us more contributions, more international contributions, and in the end also more participants. A richer and better programme also gives better possibilities for fruitful discussions.

Because the number of contributions went up, we unfortunately had to reject more papers than other years. The programme features 38 papers which are presented in one single track and two poster sessions.

The term machine translation, MT, is interpreted in its widest sense at the EAMT conferences. This means that MT refers not only to the original FAHQ (Fully Automatic High Quality) visions and their possible implementation, but also all kinds of other tools for translation, be it translation memory, alignment, example-based machine translation, etc.

For this conference we aimed at a particular focus on Practical Applications of Machine Translation. Our invited speaker Dominique Estival, Australia, will present the use of MT and other tools in a defence department. We have a number of presentations by users, and other presentations with a practical aspect. At the same time, there is a strong component of methodological papers and a few on testing and evaluation. The programme also features papers on speech-to-speech translation, an evolution which is very welcome and very interesting for future developments in the field.

The fact that researchers and users with explicit needs are brought together, and the fact that there is a fair number of research presentations as well as a number of what we called practical presentations above, provide excellent opportunities for mutual feedback. The programme committee and the organisers hope that we have been able to create an environment for interesting discussions and maybe even for the creation of new partnerships.

Before closing, I first want to thank all of the programme committee for their invaluable contribution, and the reviewers for their excellent feedback to the authors during the review process. The committee members are listed at the end of this preface.

Secondly, I want to thank John Hutchins, UK, and Balázs Kis, Morphologic, Budapest, Hungary, who compiled these proceedings and the associated CD.

Bente Maegaard

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