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Welcome Address
of the General Chair of SPECOM'2007
President of the Moscow State Linguistic University
Irina Khaleeva



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure for me to greet you at the XIIth International Conference "Speech and Computer - 2007".

This event is organized by Moscow State Linguistic University for the fifth time, and I am glad to see that it becomes more and more popular among the professionals whose work concerns both linguistic and technical aspects of automatic speech processing.

All the topics of the conference "Speech and Computer - 2007" are very important for the contemporary society. The ever-increasing tempo of life brings up new challenges, calls for quicker communication over great distances. At the same time, we witness the dramatic growth of the data volume accumulated by the human civilization, which also poses new questions and new problems, of both fundamental and technical character. Perhaps automatic speech processing, or automatic spoken and written natural language processing, is just a small part of the vast domain of the contemporary information science which is to take the challenges I have mentioned above; but the complex nature of the speech as a phenomenon and the speech signal as an object to deal with brings the issues of Speech and Computer to the top.

This year the Conference welcomes more than 300 authors from 32 countries. The list includes: Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, the USA, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam.

The year 2007 has been declared the Year of Russian language. For this reason some papers will be presented the original language at SPECOM'2007.

We have widened the list of professional issues touched upon. Alongside the traditional issues, SPECOM'2007 comprises a number of new topics, which include speech information security, multimodal and multimedia information processing, multipurpose and anti-terrorist speech technologies and so forth.

I am glad to see all of you here. I hope that this event will be beneficial for every participant.

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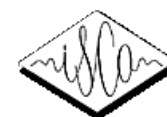
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