Preface

Computers, networks, and other forms of technology are now pervasive in our information-based society. However, most users still function as passive consumers of technology. To evolve into a true knowledge society, it is critical that we transform computer-based human activities to engage users in the active process of creating, connecting, and collaborating together.

The C5 conference is for researchers, technology developers, educators, and technology users who are concerned about developing and enabling human-oriented creation, connection, and collaboration processes. C5 is an international forum for presenting ongoing work as well as new work currently under development and for discussing future needs and directions in creative computing and multimedia authoring environments. We welcome equally the submission of technical papers and practitioner/experience reports for paper presentations. In addition, we are adding a workshop track for the third day of the conference and are soliciting proposals for interactive workshops.

For the first time hosted in Europe, this conference builds on the successes and high standards held by previous C5 conferences: 2003-2005, 2007 in Kyoto (Japan), 2006 in Berkeley (USA). We called for papers concerned with the following topics: (1) development and applications of collaboration tools and environments; (2) user collaboration utilizing 3D, multimedia, and animation objects; (3) technologies for creating educational environments; (4) Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL) and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL); (5) Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), distributed work, and virtual teaming; (6) hybrid technology activities, such as scientific experiments, instrumentation, robots, and game playing; (7) Development of applications/content for nontraditional learning environments, e.g., mentoring, peer-to-peer, “teacherless” environments (in developing countries), low cost and sustainable technologies, e.g., $100 laptop, and (8) Applications and tools for education from K-12 through higher education, system design by children, digital library and search environment for children. Authors come from not only Europe and North America but also Asia and Oceania, and interest fields of participants range from computer science to practical education. We were also able to include two keynote talks by Toru Ishida and Wendy E. Mackay.

The C5 2008 conference is organized by Hewlett-Packard Company, Kyoto University Global COE (Centers of Excellence) Program: Informatics Education and Research Center for Knowledge-Circulating Society, Viewpoints Research Institute, European Smalltalk Users Group (ESUG), and City of Poitiers, France. We would also like to express our appreciation to all committee members and reviewers for their great contributions to realize this conference.

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