On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2008 IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (ICME 2008) in Hannover, Germany, June 23-26, 2008. The conference is jointly sponsored by four IEEE societies, including Signal Processing Society, Circuits and Systems Society, Communications Society, and Computer Society. We are pleased to organize this ninth ICME and would like to offer you a taste of the traditional life, food, and drinks sound in the northern part of Germany. The world’s famous ‘Leibniz cookies’, invented in Hannover, will be available throughout the conference.

The Technical Program Chair Dr. Milind Naphade (Circuits and Systems Society) and his team of Technical Program Vice Chairs including Prof. Frank Fitzek (Communications Society), Dr. Susanto Rahardja (Signal Processing Society), Dr. Bodo Rosenhahn and Prof. Arnold Smeulders (Computer Society) have created an exciting and extensive program with more than 400 presentations. These presentations will take place during three full days consisting of five lectures and several poster sessions running in parallel, covering all aspects of multimedia represented by the four societies. In order to balance quality and breadth, less than half of the regular paper submissions are included in the technical program.

On the first day of the conference, the Tutorial Chair Prof. Alberto Del Bimbo will offer six half-day tutorials as well as one full-day tutorial on various aspects of multimedia, which will be presented by well-known experts in their field. The conference will offer three keynote speeches by our distinguished speakers; Prof. Sebastian Thrun on ‘Cars that Drive Themselves’, Prof. Tsuhan Chen on ‘Learning-Based Methods for Multimedia’, and Prof. Frank Fitzek on ‘Social-Mobile Networks’. On Wednesday, our Exhibit Chairs Dr. Jiebo Luo and Prof. Peter Pirsch will manage a full day of exhibits and demonstrations. Over ten organizations will show their latest research, prototypes, and products.

An enjoyable social program will complement the technical schedule: Several Bruchmeister of the local rifle association will give an introduction on the drinking of Lütje Lage, which is normally only given during Hannover’s Rifle Fair – the largest of its kind in the world. The introduction will take place at the welcome reception at the conference site on Monday. The formal social event in the ‘New Town Hall’ of Hannover will take place in a historic environment surrounded by natural beauty overlooking a tranquil lake. A buffet with local food and various elements of a variety show will be on offer during the evening.

We would like to thank the entire Organizing Committee for their dedication to ensure the success of ICME 2008. In addition to the members mentioned above, this includes; the Finance Chair Ursula Kemner, Publicity Chairs Prof. Yun He and Prof. Ed Wong, Publication Chair Prof. Oscar Au, Special Session Chairs Prof. Kihoharu Aizawa, Dr. Christine Guillemot and Dr. Yong Rui, the American Liaison Prof. Xinhua Zhuang and the Asian Liaison Dr. Shipeng Li. We are very appreciative of the Local Arrangements Chairs Sven Klomp and Torsten Büschenfeld as well as Kenzler Conference Management for making our work, as organizers, as easy as possible and for offering their unique ideas and initiatives.

We would like to acknowledge IBM for their support of the ‘Best Student Paper Award’ and the Institut für Informationsverarbeitung at Leibniz Universität Hannover for their logistical support.

We wish you inspiring conversations at ICME 2008 and an active social life in Hannover,

**Jörn Ostermann and Touradj Ebrahimi**

ICME 2008 General Chair and Vice Chair