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21st TERENA CONFERENCE HAILED A SUCCESS

A TERENA Briefing about the conference is at:

<http://www.terena.nl/news/briefings/tnc051105.pdf>

Sensors, Security, Safe Computing and Cyborgs were just a few of the many topics covered at the TERENA Networking Conference 2005, held in Poznań, Poland last week between 6 and 9 June. Hailed a success, this year's conference attracted over 450 participants from around the world - the highest number of delegates to ever attend a TERENA conference in its 21 year history.

One of the highlights of the conference was at the closing plenary where Kevin Warwick, Professor of Cybernetics at the University of Reading, explained the results of his research to link his own brain to a computer. During the presentation, Will Smith made an appearance when he was interviewed by Kevin at the premiere of his film "I, Robot" in London in 2004, bringing a touch of Hollywood glamour to the proceedings.

Other plenary speakers included Ed Seidel, Director of the Center for Computation & Technology at Louisiana State University in the United States. He explained how a new generation of high performance applications will be enabled by high speed networks, but explained that much work remains to be done before these applications can be realised. Dai Davies, General Manager of Dante, explained why GÉANT2 will be very different from its predecessor networks, both in terms of architecture and service. Bob Cowles, Computer Security Officer at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in the United States, gave an overview of security vulnerabilities and exploits as well as of the risks that many people take every day.

Robert Kvavik, Associate Vice President at University of Minnesota and ECAR in the United States, presented the findings from a major study of networking practices and trends in higher education, encompassing the survey results from 524 US and Canadian colleges and universities. Jochen Schiller, Dean of the Department of Computer Science at the Free University Berlin, Germany, explained that sensor networks are currently topics of hype in networking and put into perspective what the benefits are, the current and future problems and what the possible applications of sensor networks will be. The jam-packed programme meant that as well as exciting keynote speakers, there were up to five parallel sessions a day covering a wide-range of topics - ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy. Shirley Wood, TERENA Vice-President of Conferences, said: "The organisation of this years' conference was outstanding - thank you to our Polish colleagues whose dedication and hard work ensured the conference was a success. A big thank you should also be given to all our speakers, who, at the end of the day, make the programme attractive to delegates."

The session devoted to Eastern Europe Networking was particularly enlightening, with presentations about the networking activities and development plans of the NRENs in these areas. It was plain to see that there are significant differences between NRENs in western and Eastern Europe and the panel discussion created an opportunity to further discuss the future of NRENs in this part of the world, particularly in regard to integration with GÉANT2.

Expanding the appeal of the conference to a wider audience were the sessions on "Reaching the Users" and "What Services do the NRENs Need to Provide" which attracted those responsible in the community for marketing and public relations.

With emphasis on the future, the session on "Extending the Network Outside the NREN Community" highlighted the fact that many governments are keen to widen the use of the advanced networks provided by NRENs. The presenters identified some key areas and tools that could be used to widen participation.

Several TERENA taskforces met prior to the conference, including TF-PR (Public Relations), TF-Mobility, TF-EMC² (European Middleware Coordination and Collaboration) as did the TERENA Technical Advisory Council for their annual meeting. A special Voice over IP (VoIP) workshop was held on Sunday 5 June whilst other TERENA groups met later in the week, including the General Assembly who had their biannual meeting after the conference had ended.

The conference was organised by TERENA and hosted by PSNC, the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre (PSNC) who operate the Polish Research and Education Network, Pionier. The conference took place in the newly built Congress Centre of the Poznań University of Technology and was made possible by the generous support of ALMA, Cisco Systems, Juniper Networks, IBM, ADVA, ATM, COLT, EXATEL, Intel, TELE-PERN, TeliaSonera, Extreme Networks, Global Crossing, NORTEL, Level3, Sun Microsystems, GLIMMERGLAS, TANDBERG, Ericsson and of course, PSNC.

The TERENA Briefing on this workshop can be found at:

www.terena.nl/news/briefings/tnc05

For more information about TNC2005:

www.terena.nl/conferences/tnc2005/

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