

Report of The third Central European Multimedia and Virtual Reality Conference (CEMVRC)

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I. INTRODUCTION

The first conference was held in Veszprém, Hungary, May 2004, (see <http://vision.vein.hu/CEMIVRC04/>), the second one in Prague, Czech Republic in June 2005 (see <http://vision.vein.hu/CEMVRC05/>). This year, the conference was held from 6 to 8 November 2006, in Eger, Hungary, organized by the Virtual Environments and Imaging Technologies Laboratory of the University of Pannonia and the Applied Light and Colour Technical Committee of the Veszprém Branch of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences <http://vision.vein.hu/CEMVRC06/>.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

The purpose of this conference series (CEMVRC) was to provide a forum for international experts, researchers and user groups to present and review how advances in the general area of Multimedia and Virtual Reality as well as Augmented Reality, and 3D HCI can be used to assist presentation, data and information visualization, education, communication and people with disabilities. The initial Call for Papers generated considerable interest, with high-quality contributions from researchers from 10 countries, many of which showed collaboration across international boundaries.

The Conference was opened by Dr. Sándor Dominich, (Fig. 1) Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology of the University of Pannonia, who dealt – among others – with the importance virtual reality in modern life.

The programme begun with a keynote speech by Zsófia Ruttkay [1] (Fig. 2), Associate Professor at Human Media Interaction, Dept. of Computer Science, University Twente, The Netherlands. She has been working in the field of Embodied Conversational Agents for 10 years. Her major research topic is multimodal communication, particularly facial animation and hand gesturing. She designed and developed a facial animation tool, also using AI technology to generate different facial expressions meeting constraints.

Currently she is working with her students on interactive applications, such as a Virtual Conductor guiding real musicians or a Virtual Trainer coaching people's exercises.

She has been involved in the organization of several conferences and workshops, among other a Dagstuhl seminar on evaluating ECAs. She has launched and has been chairing the annual GALA Festival.

On the second day there was a very interesting talk by Barnabás Takács [2] (Fig. 3).

Dr. Takács is an internationally recognized computer scientist in the fields of human animation, virtual reality, computer vision, tracking, real-time image processing, face recognition, security systems and novel medical technologies.



Fig. 1: Dr. Dominich addressing the conference.



Fig. 2: The first day Keynote speaker, Dr. Zsófia Ruttkay.

He is the founder of Digital Elite Inc., a Los Angeles-based consulting & software company that develops a high

performance virtual human modeling and animation platform for the new communication age. Digital Elite's core technology, the Virtual Human Interface (VHI) was successfully deployed in many practical medical and educational applications and it forms the foundation for a new generation of interactive human visualization tools. Examples include i) anatomical guidance system for ultrasound, ii) advanced human modeling from volumetric data sets, and iii) virtual reality therapy. Dr. Takács also leads a research group at MTA SZTAKI Computer and Automation Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences where a new generation of human-centred interactive technologies is currently being developed.



Fig. 3: Dr. Barnabás Takács, the second day Invited speaker giving his presentation.

After a peer review process, the International Programme Committee selected 20 papers (including 2 invited papers) and 9 posters to be presented at the conference. They were grouped in 6 sessions: Education with Multimedia/Virtual Reality and VR technologies, VR technologies in Rehabilitation and Games, Simulation, Augmented Reality and 3D reconstruction, Education with Multimedia, Information visualization and WEB based graphics, as well as a *Poster session*. The three-day long conference was held at the Hotel Flóra, in Eger, Hungary. CEMVRC 2006 was the third conference in Central Europe dedicated to this topic and intending to attract researchers, developers and designers in this region and from other countries, who would like to get in contact with research activities in this region, in order to discuss new results and issues related to software engineering. It may become a biannual traditional event to be hosted by an institution in one of the Central European countries.

The conference was attended by 59 participants from 13 countries. This shows nice increase of the international acceptance of our conference because at the first meeting

attendance came from 7 countries, at the second meeting participants came from 11 countries.

During the afternoon of the second day of the conference – after some exhausting lectures – participants enjoyed a two hours visit of the historic highlights of Eger. Later in the evening the discussions were further continued during the conference dinner in one of the wine cellars of Eger.



Fig. 4: Discussion during the Poster session.



Fig. 5: Some of the participants attending the conference, picture taken during one of the breaks.

The Hungarian Public Television made a 15 minutes report on the conference, where papers of the following authors were mentioned: Maly [3], Fűrnhstahl [4], Balog [5], Harms [6], Heldal [7], Takacs [8], Geiszt [9]. The programme was broadcasted in the Series "Choose the knowledge" on 29 Nov. 2006.

All papers and posters was published in a conference proceedings by the Pannonia University Press (ISBN 963 9495 89 1). We hope that the conference was useful to all the participants.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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The conference Chairs would like to thank the Programme Committee, for their input to the conference format and focus, and for their commitment to the review process, the authors of all the papers submitted to the conference, the Organising Committee, and the students who have helped during the period of the conference.



Fig. 6: Pictures taken during the two hours city tour.



Fig. 7: Dinner party in the wine cellar.

The conference Chairs for CEMVRC 2006 welcome any feedback on this year's meeting. We would also welcome suggestion for the venue/host country for CEMVRC 2008 possibly in Sopron (Hungary).

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