



Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that the Board of Governors of the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) has approved launching a premier annual event named *IEEE China Summit and International Conference on Signal and Information Processing* (ChinaSIP) starting next year, in response to the need and demand of our colleagues in China and the Asia-Pacific regions. The inaugural conference will be held in Beijing on 6-10 July 2013. I invite you to participate in planning the conference and I welcome your attendance.

With the rapid development of China's academic and research work and the unique Chinese environment, we understand that Signal/Information Processing (SIP) colleagues in China are eager to join the international stage as part of the global research community. An infrastructure for community building and a direct link to SPS for a ladder of opportunities and professional development must be established. Recognizing that, SPS has decided to launch ChinaSIP as a high quality conference and a community building infrastructure that offers a platform for local colleagues in China to collaborate with each other and with global experts.

ChinaSIP will have plenty of exciting programs in addition to technical presentations and plenaries, including summer school/tutorials and networking opportunities with leaders in the global SIP community. Also under planning are professional development panels to demystify issues of interests to many colleagues in China, such as paths to become IEEE journal Associate Editors and IEEE Fellows, how to engage with the global SIP community, and insights from high-impact SIP research, programs, and products. ChinaSIP will be a time and place for leaders, educators, practitioners, and researchers to gather to chat and laugh together – these are often the times when great ideas are stimulated and born. We hope you will be able to join us.

To start such an ambitious task from scratch is not an easy job. Fortunately, we have many dedicated volunteers who have invested a tremendous amount of time to make this dream possible, and I thank them. Under the leadership of Professor Min Wu, SPS Vice President-Finance (minwu@eng.umd.edu), a ChinaSIP Steering Committee has been established. The Steering Committee is in the process of developing the Technical Interest Groups and inviting those who are willing and qualified to serve. Professors Thomas Fang Zheng (fzheng@tsinghua.edu.cn) and Zhi Ding (zding@ece.ucdavis.edu) are leading the organizing team for the first ChinaSIP.

Opportunities still exist for you to help shape the program. Please volunteer to join the organizers. It will be successful only if all of you consider this your own event and assist with its planning.

The leadership of SPS will be in Beijing to join you in celebration of this inaugural ChinaSIP, and I look forward to meeting you there.

Best regards,

K. J. Ray Liu
President, IEEE Signal Processing Society