Preface

The IFIP TC-6 Ninth International Conference on Personal Wireless Communications, PWC 2004 is the main conference of the IFIP Working Group 6.8, Mobile and Wireless Communications.

The field of personal wireless communications is steadily growing in importance, from an academic, industrial and societal point of view. The dropping cost of WLAN and short range technologies such as Bluetooth and Zigbee is causing the proliferation of personal devices and appliances equipped with radio interfaces. Together with gradual deployment of powerful wireless infrastructure networks, such as 3G cellular systems and WLAN hotspots, the conditions are being created for affordable ubiquitous communication involving virtually any artifact. This enables new application areas such as ambient intelligence where a world of devices sensors and actuators surrounding us use wireless technology to create systems that assist us in an unobtrusive way. It also allows the development of personal and personalized environments that accompany a person wherever he or she goes. Examples are Personal Area Networks (PAN) physically surrounding a person, and personal networks with a potentially a global reach.

PWC 2004 reflects these developments, which are happening on a global scale. Researchers from all over the world and in particular a large number from Asia have made contributions to the conference. There were 100 submissions. After a thorough reviewing process, 25 full papers and 13 short papers were retained for presentation in the technical sessions. The papers cover the whole range of wireless and mobile technologies: cellular systems, WLAN, ad hoc and sensor networks, host and network mobility, transport protocols for wireless systems, and physical layer.

PWC 2004 was made possible by the enthusiasm, dedication and cooperation of many people. In particular we would like to thank the TPC members and the reviewers who are responsible for the high quality reviewing process, and, the Executive Committee for making the final selection of papers and the composition of the sessions. Of course, a special thanks to all the authors that showed their interest in the conference by submitting their papers. Also thanks to the organizations that supported the conference through various forms of sponsoring: KPN Mobile, Nokia, TNO Telecom and WMC. Last but not least, many thanks to the Organizing Committee that worked very hard to make sure that all organizational processes, the website, the electronic submissions, the financials, the social event and all the practical matters that were taken care of.

July 2004   Ignas G. Niemegeers – Chair

                                   Sonia Heemstra de Groot – Vice Chair