

An Evaluation Report of The 2011 Asian School of Automatic Control

David Banjerdpongchai, Waree Kongprawechnon, and Manop Wongsaisuwan

January 28, 2011

The 2011 Asian School of Automatic Control (ASAC 2011) was organized on January 19-21, 2011 at Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. There were total 66 participants attending ASAC 2011. The number of oversea participants is 20 from 7 ASEAN countries and the number of domestic participants is 46 from 8 institutions in Thailand. Figures 1 and 2 show the number of overseas participants categorized by countries and the number of domestic participants categorized by institutions.

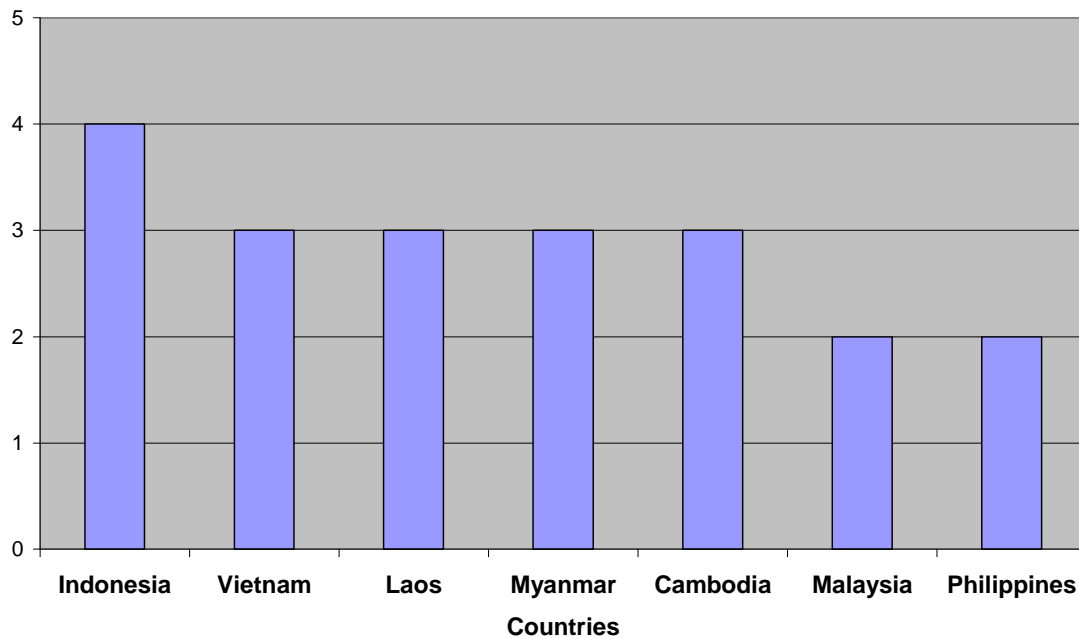


Figure 1 Number of overseas participants.

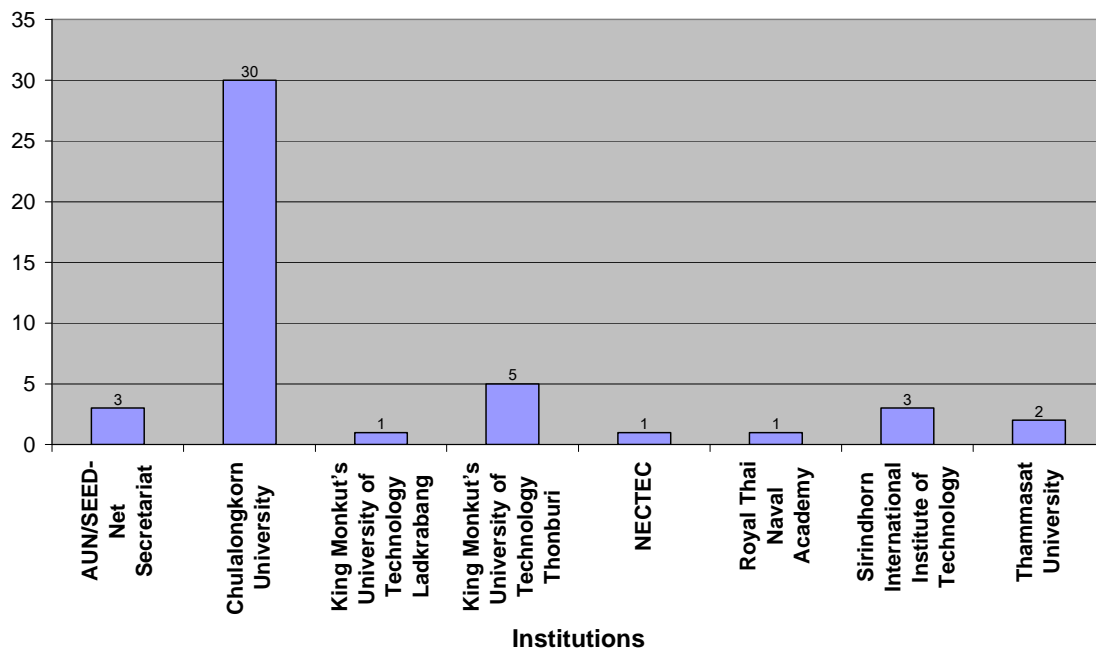


Figure 2 Number of domestic participants.

Table 1 explains the number of participants categorized by positions. Almost half of participants were students and the other half were faculty members.

Table 1 Number of participants categorized by positions.

Position	Overseas participants	Domestic participants	Total
Lecturer	18	14	32
Student	2	28	30
Researcher	-	1	1
Coordinator	-	3	3
Total	20	46	66

We have received 36 evaluation forms from the 68 participants. The summary of evaluation is as follows.

Figure 3 shows that most of attendees received the information of the event from various sources, such as email, website, and colleagues, organizing committees, advisors, AUN-SEED/NET, Ministry of Science and Technology, etc.

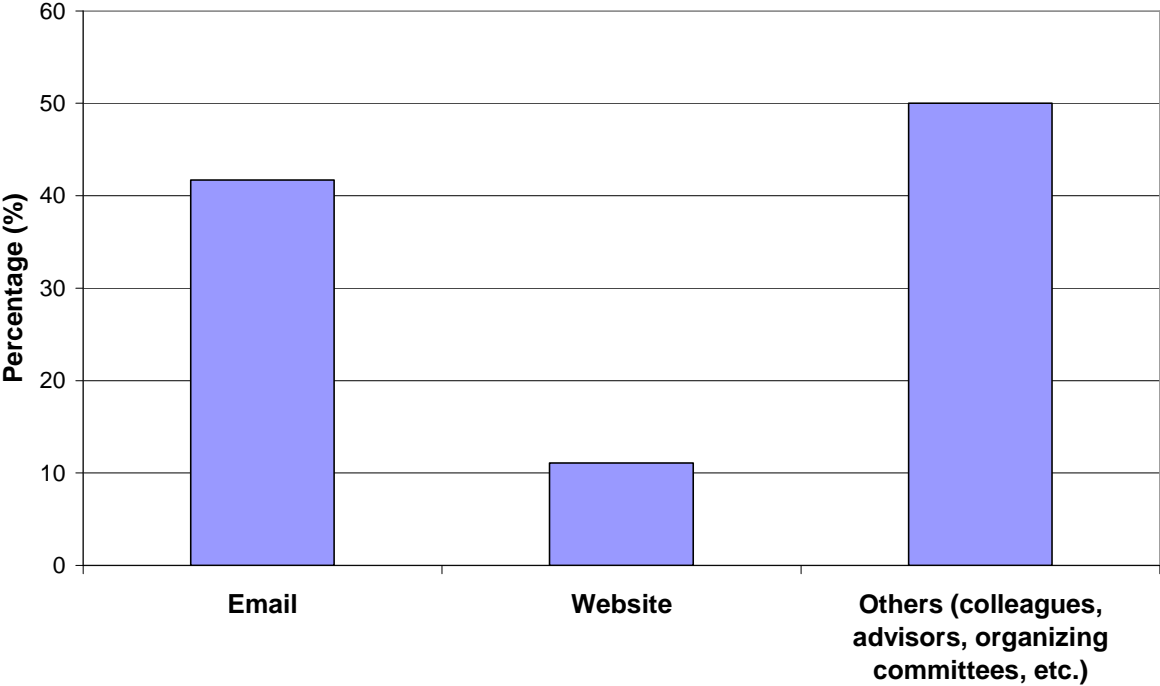


Figure 3 Channels of receiving promotional information.

Figure 4 shows that the lecture topic was the most important factor for participants to attend the event. For overseas participants, the travel support was the key factor to enable them to attend the lectures.

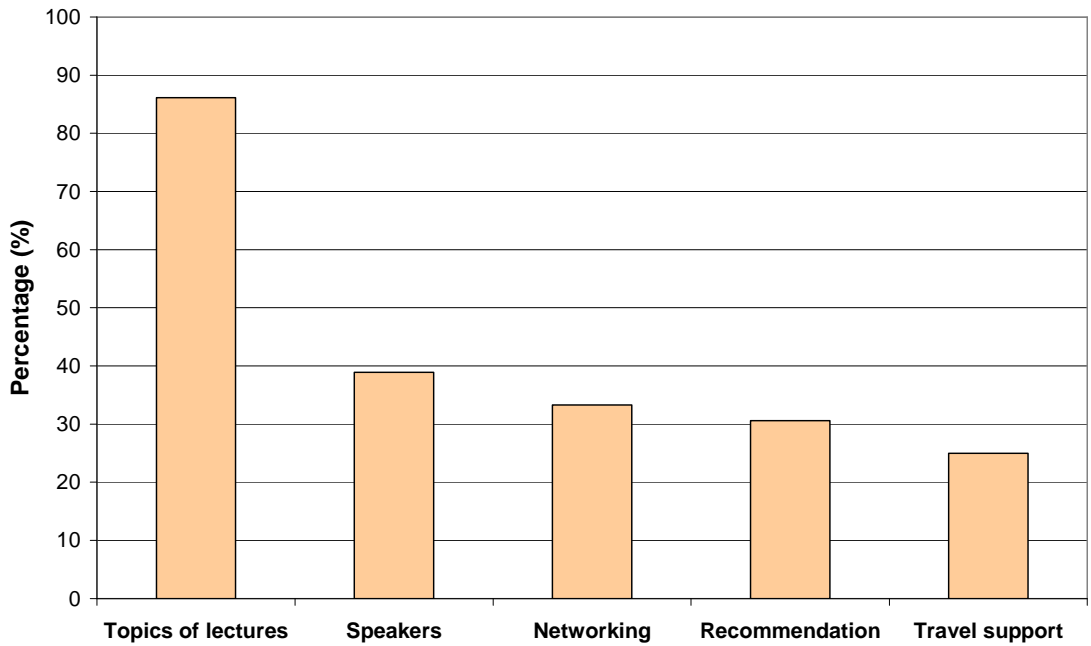


Figure 4 Main reasons for attending ASAC 2011.

In the questionnaires, rating contains 4 scales; Excellent (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1). Figure 5 shows the rating of ASAC 2011 in general terms. The participants were most satisfied with the invited speakers, staff service, and accommodation and were least satisfied with the pre-event organization.

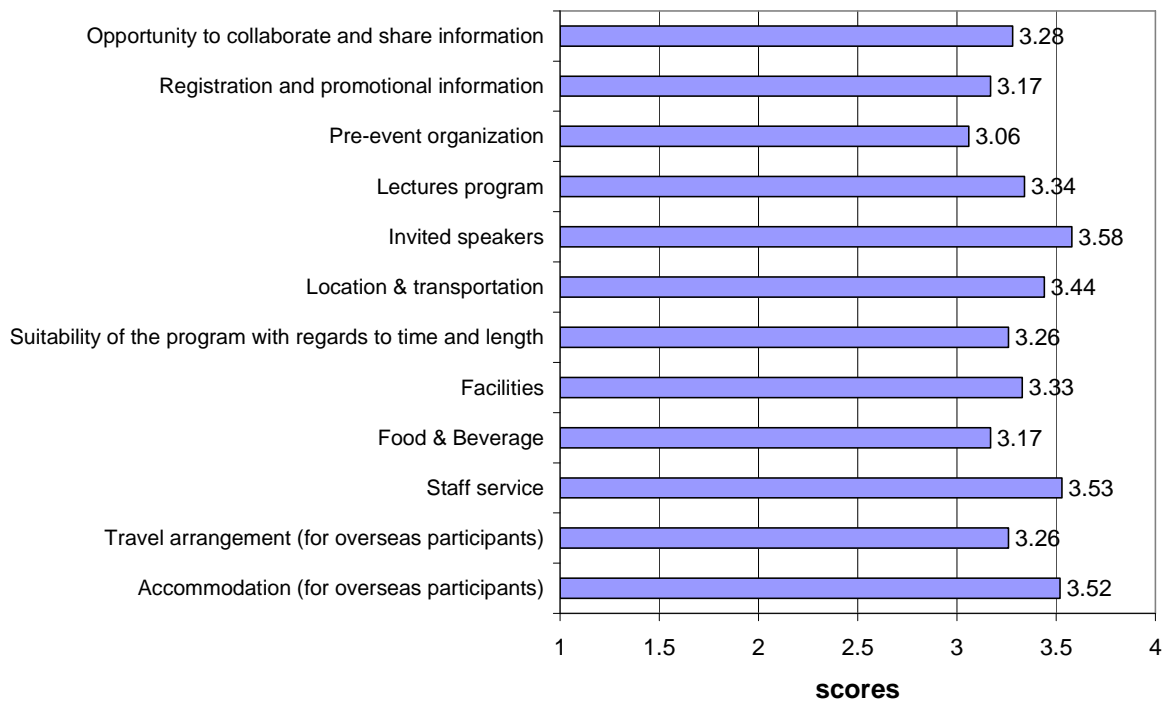


Figure 5 Rating of ASAC 2011 in general terms.

In ASAC 2011, there are a total of 11 lectures from 5 invited lecturers. Figure 6 shows the rating of these lectures. All lectures received good or excellent ratings. Control engineering management and disruptive innovation (given by Chang Chieh Hang) were voted to be the most excellent lectures from the participants' responses. Model Predictive Control and Fuzzy control received the next highest rating.

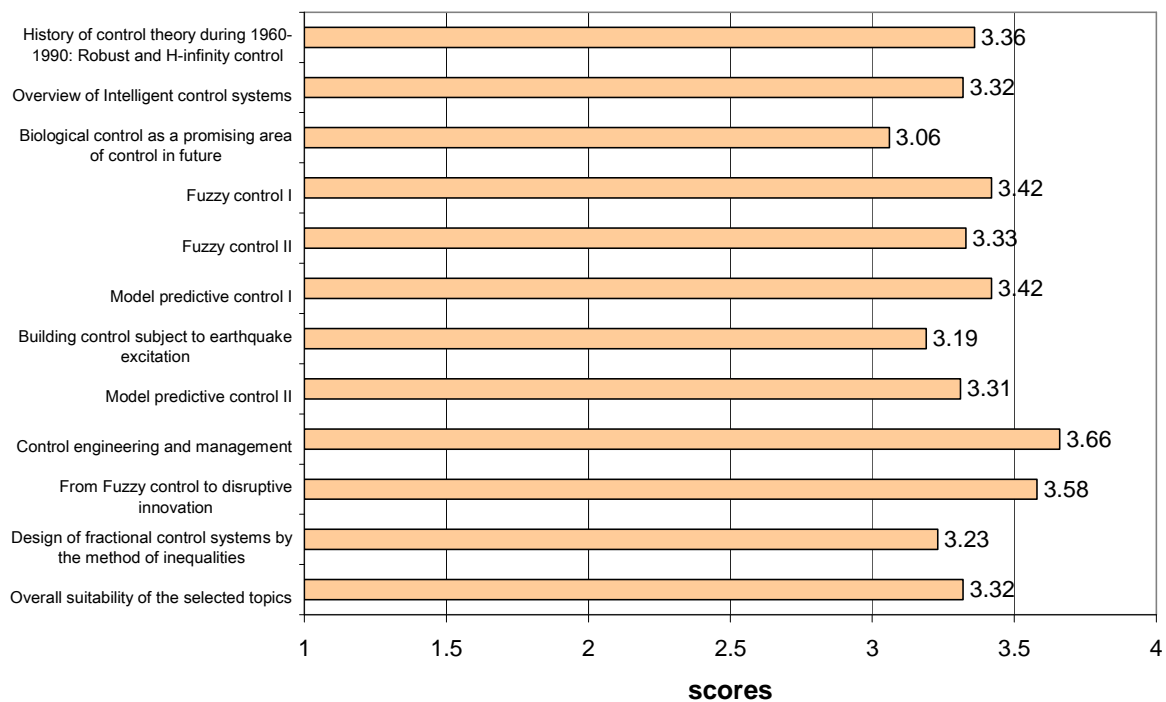


Figure 6 Rating of ASAC 2011 lectures.

From the questionnaires, the most beneficial aspects of ASAC 2011 for participants were the chances to

- Establish a collaboration with researchers in control engineering (9)
- Obtain good reviews and enhance our insight in control theory (9)
- Keep up with recent trends on control theory and applications (7)
- Be able to get students more interested and involved in control community (1)
- Create a forum for discussion of new ideas (1)
- Gain effective teaching methods for students (1)
- Gain more understanding on fuzzy control and MPC (1)
- Travel to Thailand (1)

Note: The number in () indicates the frequency of reply.

Many interesting topics were proposed to be given in the next ASAC. These include

- Model predictive control (6)
- Fuzzy control (6)
- Control engineering for management (4)
- Control applications to renewable energy (4), smart grids (2), power system (2), electronics (1)
- Fundamental control theory (2)
- Robust and H-infinity control (2)
- Implementation of control design (2)
- Nonlinear control (1)
- Optimal control (1)
- Robotics (1)
- E-control lab development (1)
- Networked control systems (1)
- Control of embedded systems (1)
- Mathematical models of biological systems (1)

Note: The number in () indicates the frequency of reply.

A few participants have suggested Professor Wook Hyun Kwon (MPC) and Professor Marzuki Bin Khalid (Fuzzy control) to be invited speakers in the future event.

Additional Comments

- ASAC should be held in a yearly basis
- ASAC provided an opportunity to establish networking with researchers in neighbor countries
- The organizers provided excellent support and hospitality and assisted all participants in many ways.
- ASAC should invite companies in ASEAN to share experience in control engineering
- The duration is too short for advanced studies and to be able to discuss with speakers
- Handouts should be provided in advance
- The lectures should include more on control applications
- Halal food and mineral water should be provided for Islam participants
- More AC outlets for notebooks should be available
- The conference location should provide more space and facilities (e.g., blackboard) for technical discussion

Acknowledgement: We thank Dr. Jitkomut Songsiri of Chulalongkorn University for collecting and making a summary of evaluation.

