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# Computers Helping People with Special Needs

13th International Conference, ICCHP 2012  
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Proceedings, Part I

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# Preface

## Welcome to the ICCHP 2012 Proceedings

The information society is moving towards eAccessibility and eInclusion around the world, facilitated by better and user-friendlier assistive technologies. Research and development are important drivers in moving the sector forward and also in implementing accessibility as a key feature of today's mainstream systems and services. Evidence of this trend can be seen in new free and commercial products, such as screenreader software, working seamlessly on all up-to-date smartphones, pads and tablets.

ICCHP is proud of being an active force in this process since the 1980s. Scientific conferences, besides showcasing the newest ideas and developments, facilitate exchange and cooperation. They are indispensable ingredients of innovation and progress.

This year, as in the past, we are proud to welcome more than 500 participants from over 50 countries from around the world; 112 experts selected 147 full and 42 short papers out of 364 abstracts submitted to ICCHP. They form the core of the program of ICCHP 2012. Each paper was reviewed by three expert reviewers and every submission was then further evaluated in a meeting of the international Program Committee. The acceptance ratio of about 50% of the submissions demonstrates our strict pursuit of scientific quality both of the program and in particular of the proceedings in your hands.

The concept of organizing "Special Thematic Sessions" helped to structure the proceedings and program. The process supports focusing on selected topics of high interest in the field as well as bringing new and interesting topics to the attention of the research community. This approach makes the 13th edition of ICCHP proceedings a valued and interesting contribution to the state of the art and a reference in our domain of study.

ICCHP, for the first time, features and includes the conference "Universal Learning Design (ULD)." This part of the ICCHP program invites experienced practitioners and users to present their ideas, problems, experiences and concepts in an open forum, allowing us to learn from and advance our work based on experience and best practice. Most of these contributions are of a practical nature and are therefore included in a special publication of the ULD hosting partner Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic. We recommend referring to them when reading these proceedings. With ULD, ICCHP will advance more rapidly towards a platform facilitating the exchange and cooperation of a diverse set of stakeholders allowing deeper and more sustainable impact.



ULD complements ICCHP very well. Together with the “Young Researchers Consortium”, the “Summer University on Math, Science and Statistics for Blind and Partially Sighted Students”, the finals of the international coding event “SS12 – Project:Possibility”, intensive workshops, meetings and an exhibition including presentations and demonstrations of major software and assistive technology producers and vendors, ICCHP will once again be the international meeting place and center of advanced information exchange.

ICCHP 2012 is held under the auspices of Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Federal Republic of Austria, an honorable Committee of Honor and under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

We thank the Austrian Computer Society for announcing and sponsoring the ICCHP Roland Wagner Award, endowed in 2001 in honor of Roland Wagner, the founder of ICCHP.

*Former Award Winners:*

- Award 5: Handed over at ICCHP 2010 in Vienna to:
  - Harry Murphy - Founder, Former Director and Member of Advisory Board of the Centre on Disabilities, USA
  - Joachim Klaus - Founder, Former Director of the Study Centre for the Visually Impaired at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (SZS - KIT), Germany
- Award 4: George Kersher, Daisy Consortium, ICCHP 2008 in Linz
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- *Special Award 2003*: A Min Tjoa, Vienna University of Technology
- Award 1: WAI-W3C, ICCHP 2002 in Linz
- Award 0: Prof. Roland Wagner on the occasion of his 50th birthday, 2001

Once again we thank everyone for helping with putting ICCHP in place and thereby supporting the AT field and a better quality of life for people with disabilities.

Special thanks go to all our sponsors and supporters.

July 2012

Klaus Miesenberger  
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