Preface

The purpose of VLBV 2003 was to provide an international forum for the discussion of the state of the art of visual content processing techniques, standards, and applications covering areas such as: video/image analysis, representation and coding, communications and delivery, consumption, synthesis, protection, and adaptation. The topics of special interest include all the areas relevant to image communications nowadays, from representation and coding to content classification, adaptation, and personalization.

A meeting covering such a wide range of topics takes many years to develop. So, please follow a brief story of the evolution of this relevant and specialized forum and of its adaptation to the prevailing interests along time.

At the beginning of 1993, the idea of a specialized workshop to discuss topics in advanced image communications came in Lausanne, Switzerland, at a meeting of the steering committee of the International Picture Coding Symposium. Therefore, the so-called International Workshop on Coding Techniques for Very Low Bit-rate Video VLBV was born as low bit-rate research was considered to be the leading edge. The first workshop was held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, in 1993; the second at the University of Essex in Colchester, UK, in April 1994; the third at NTT in Tokyo, Japan, in November 1995; the fourth at the University of Linköping, Sweden, in July 1997; the fifth in Urbana (again) in October 1998. Until this last workshop, VLBV life was closely tied with MPEG-4, that is to low bit-rate research. However in 1998 MPEG-7 came to life and so the workshop included feature extraction and segmentation; video representation, coding, and indexing; and MPEG-7 issues.

A new era began in 1999, when the workshop's name was shortened to VLBV, keeping the established initials, but losing the low bit-rate flavor. So image and video representation, coding, indexing, and retrieval became the core areas of the workshop. Besides, the structure was changed to favor open debate on state-of-the-art trends through several specialized panels, and the success of this new format has been retained since that date. It was also perceived that a regular interval of two years increased the high standing of the workshop. VLBV has always been held right after the IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP) in odd numbered years. So, the sixth workshop was held at the Kyoto Research Park in Kyoto, Japan, in October 1999 and the seventh was held at the National Technical University of Athens in October 2001. This was the eighth in the series and was held in September 2003.

One additional step in the evolution of the workshop has been the publication of the proceedings in the well-known Lecture Notes in Computer Science series of Springer-Verlag. Another additional step has been the sponsor by The European Association for Signal, Speech, and Image Processing, Eurasip.

The VLBV 2003 call for papers resulted in 89 submissions. Following a thorough reviewing process, 38 papers were selected for presentation at the mee-

ting. In addition, two world-wide known distinguished guests delivered the two keynote speeches: Leonardo Chiariglione on the difference between the availability and the use of technology, and Gary J. Sullivan on the emerging H.264/AVC and the evolution of video coding from now on. Finally, open debates by relevant researchers were arranged around four panels on Image and Video Analysis (chaired by Thomas Sikora with the participation of Touradj Ebrahimi, Philippe Jolly, Julien Signès, and Murat Tekalp), Content Adaptation (chaired by Fernando Pereira with the participation of Jan Bormans, Andrew Perkins, John R. Smith, and Anthony Vetro), Video Coding, Present and Future (chaired by Ralf Schäfer with the participation of Kiyoharu Aizawa, Jim Beveridge, and Bernd Girod), and 3D Graphics Standards (chaired by Gauthier Lafruit with the participation of Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann, Jackie Neider, and Marius Preda).

The response to the call for papers for VLBV 2003 was most encouraging and the organizing committee is grateful to all those who contributed and thus assured the high technical level of the meeting. Equally the organizing committee would like to thank the reviewers for their excellent and hard work and for meeting the tight time schedule. I should also like to record my thanks to the members of the international steering committee for their advice and to the members of the organizing committee for all their hard work to guarantee the success of VLBV 2003.

Finally, I hope that all participants enjoyed their stay in Madrid and had a fruitful and wonderful meeting.

September 2003   Narciso García

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VLBV 2003 was organized by the Grupo de Tratamiento de Imágenes, whose members belong to the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and to the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

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