APSIPA
ASIA PACIFIC SIGNAL AND INFORMATION PROCESSING ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 46, NOVEMBER 2025
http://www.apsipa.org/

Greeting from the Editorial Office

Welcome to the November 2025 issue of the APSIPA Newsletter!

I hope many of you had the opportunity to attend APSIPA ASC 2025 in Singapore. It was a great pleasure to reconnect with old friends and to meet new ones. I was especially delighted to see so many young researchers engaging actively in discussions and contributing to the conference. The Asia-Pacific region is truly becoming the heart of the next generation of signal and information processing.

In this issue, we feature comments from the awardees celebrated at ASC 2025.

Please look forward to the next APSIPA ASC, which will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in November 2026!

Thank you for reading, and I hope you enjoy this issue!

Yuichi Tanaka
EiC of the APSIPA Newsletter

In this issue

APSIPA ASC 2025 Concludes Successfully in Singapore

Woon-Seng Gan, Haizhou Li, Hitoshi Kiya (*General Chairs of APSIPA ASC 2025*), and Yan Wu (TPC Chair of APSIPA ASC 2025)

The APSIPA Annual Summit and Conference 2025 (ASC 2025) has wrapped up with resounding success in Singapore, leaving attendees energized and inspired. Held at the iconic Shangri-La Singapore from October 22–24, 2025, this 17th APSIPA ASC was a **truly memorable event** filled with innovation, collaboration, and a host of new initiatives. Under the theme ***"Signal and Information Processing in the Era of Multimodal AI,"*** researchers from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond came together to share breakthroughs and chart future directions.

Photos at APSIPA ASC 2025.

This year, we received a record high **604 submissions and 608 registrations** from more than **20 countries/regions**, demonstrating the truly global reach of APSIPA. After a rigorous peer-review process, **457 papers** were accepted for presentation with regular paper **acceptance rate** of **70.4%**. The programme has been carefully designed to balance **fundamental research, translational innovation, and cross-disciplinary exploration**, ensuring that every participant finds inspiration and opportunities for collaboration.

The conference kicked off with **three outstanding keynote speeches** that set an enthusiastic tone for the week. Prof. **Emanuël Habets** (International Audio Labs Erlangen, Germany) opened with a talk on *"Advancing Speech Communication: From Spatial Capture to Runtime Adaptation,"* showcasing cutting-edge advances in spatial audio capture and neural beamforming for natural voice communication. On the second day, Prof. **Jane Wang** (University of British Columbia, Canada) demonstrated how *signal processing meets deep learning in healthcare* through a case study on Parkinson's disease, emphasizing the need for interpretable and robust AI in biomedical applications. Rounding out the trio, Prof. **Xiao-Ping (Steven) Zhang** (Tsinghua SIGS, China) introduced a novel approach to *recording and representing human movement* via a symbolic notation system, bridging classical methods (like Labanotation for dance) with modern AI techniques. The keynote speakers' depth and passion sparked many hallway conversations and perfectly embodied the conference's multidisciplinary theme.

One hallmark of ASC 2025 was the **introduction of several new program initiatives** that invigorated the traditional conference format:

Perspective & Panel Sessions: For the first time, the conference featured four themed panel discussions on pressing topics – from *Voice Privacy and Security* to *Foundation Models*, *Neural Speech Assessment*, and *Leveraging LLMs in Speech & Language*. These sessions brought **world-leading experts** together for lively dialogues on emerging challenges. APSIPA ASC 2025 launched its first-ever **Grand Challenge**, infusing a spirit of friendly competition into the conference. The inaugural challenge focused on **acoustic scene classification** with real-world context – participants were tasked with recognizing environmental sounds while leveraging city-level location and time metadata. Top teams from this Grand Challenge were invited to present their methods during a special session, where winners were announced and celebrated. The **technical paper sessions** themselves saw an exciting change in format this year. To maximize engagement, all accepted papers (over several hundred in total) were presented in a **hybrid oral-poster** style. Each paper was allotted a short **5-minute oral spotlight** on stage, followed by a **30-minute interactive poster discussion** in the same room. Attendees appreciated being able to hear **high-level highlights of every paper** and then choose which posters to visit for deeper interaction. The conference also introduced dedicated sessions for **Journal Presentation** papers and **Late-Breaking Reports**, further broadening the knowledge sharing.

Another standout event was the special **Active Noise Control (ANC) Workshop**, a one-day symposium that celebrated *90 years* of progress since Paul Lueg's seminal 1936 patent on ANC. The ANC Workshop featured a keynote by **Emeritus Prof. Stephen Elliott**, a luminary in the field, who reflected on *"Active Noise Control: The Last 40 Years"* and the lessons learned. This was followed by an expert panel discussing *current research challenges and future directions* in ANC, with panelists from academia and industry (spanning National Tsing Hua University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kansai University, Australian National University, Huawei, and more).

APSIPA ASC 2025 also put a special spotlight on **student researchers** with the debut of the APSIPA **Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition**. This fast-paced contest challenged students to *effectively communicate the importance of their research to a general audience in just three minutes* – with only one static slide allowed. During the competition session, these young researchers delivered an amazing variety of talks, distilling complex signal and information processing topics into engaging three-minute pitches. The 3MT competition was a **big hit** and is sure to become a staple at future APSIPA conferences, as it aligns perfectly with APSIPA's mission to nurture the next generation of innovators.

Diversity and inclusion took center stage at ASC 2025 with the **Women in APSIPA Forum: "Bridging Brilliance and Diversity."** This special forum provided a platform where technical excellence intertwines with a commitment to inclusivity. APSIPA also outreaches into the local student community on a pre-conference tutorial and autumn school. The **Autumn School** was hosted at the National University of Singapore (NUS) as a bonus for students. All registered student attendees were invited to spend the day at NUS attending seminars and mini-lectures delivered by **expert educators and AI researchers** from leading universities and industry. **Four parallel tutorials** as part of the

official program's kickoff. Tutorials have always been an important component of APSIPA ASC, providing a chance to learn about cutting-edge research areas in a focused setting ranging on topics from **end-to-end learned image and video coding** to **deep learning for speech and audio**.

This year's **Founder Forum** was a special moment in the program, bringing together APSIPA's past Presidents and founding leaders to reflect on the Society's origins, growth, and evolving mission. Their personal stories, insights, and aspirations for the next generation served as a timely reminder that APSIPA's strength comes from the continued commitment to mentorship, collaboration, and community building across our region over the past 17 years.

With its **rich technical program**, new interactive format, and numerous special events, APSIPA ASC 2025 will be remembered as a conference that combined *academic rigor* with *community spirit*. As the summit concluded with the **closing ceremony and awards**, the General Chairs and Technical Program Chairs thanked all participants, volunteers, and sponsors for making APSIPA ASC 2025 such a success. The excitement doesn't end here – the APSIPA community now eagerly looks forward to the **18th APSIPA ASC in 2026**, to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam (November 9–12, 2026) and **see you in Hanoi in 2026** for the next chapter of our APSIPA journey!

General Co-Chairs: Woon-Seng Gan, Haizhou Li, and Hitoshi Kiya

Technical Program Chair: Yan Wu

11th November 2025

APSIPA ASC 2026

18th Asia Pacific Signal and Information Processing Association Annual Summit and Conference

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Ha Thi Thanh Huong, VN

3MT Competition Chair
Do Thanh Ha, VN

Grand Challenges Chair
Hoang Van Xiem, VN

Time and Location

November 9-12, 2026, Hanoi, Vietnam

Conference theme

Signal and information processing for aligning human-machine generalization

Introduction

APSIPA ASC is the annual conference organized by Asia-Pacific Signal and Information Processing Association (APSIPA). Founded in 2009, APSIPA aims to promote research and education in signal processing, information technology, and communications.

APSIPA ASC in Hanoi, Vietnam will be the 18th edition, and we are calling for submissions in all aspects of applications. Please refer to the conference web page (https://apsipa2026.org) for full information. All accepted papers will be included in IEEE Xplore. The technical program includes, but not limited to the following areas:

Topics

- Signal Processing Systems: Design and Implementation
- Signal and Information Processing Theory and Methods
- Speech, Language, and Audio
- Biomedical Signal Processing and Systems
- Image, Video, and Multimedia
- Multimedia Security and Forensics
- Wireless Communications and Networking
- Deep Learning: Algorithms, Implementations, and Applications
- Signal and Information Processing in Education
- Medical Signal Acquisition, Analysis and Processing
- Internet of Things Technology
- Data Analytics and Machine Learning
- Human Biometrics and Security Systems
- Signal and Information Processing for Smart Systems
- Multimodal AI
- Generative AI and Large Language Models
- Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence for Education

Important deadlines

- Proposals for Special Sessions, Panels, Tutorials, Schools, Grand Challenges: **January 15, 2026**
- Proposal acceptance: **January 30, 2026**
- Paper submission: **March 15, 2026**
- Paper acceptance: **June 1, 2026**
- Camera-ready paper submission: **June 15, 2026**
- Registration: **June 15, 2026**

www.apsipa2026.org

APSIPA ASC 2025 Awardees

Best Paper Award

Ruijie Tao, Zhan Shi, Yidi Jiang, Tianchi Liu, Haizhou Li: *Voice Conversion Augmentation for Speaker Recognition on Defective Datasets*

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the APSIPA ASC 2025 organizing committee for honoring our work with the Best Paper Award. It is a great privilege for our team. Our paper focuses on data-generation-based augmentation for speaker recognition, which aims to provide a scalable and effective way to enhance model robustness. We hope that this direction can contribute meaningful insights to the speech community.

This award has a special meaning for me. I have been working in the field of speech processing for more than six years, and this recognition will encourage and motivate my future research. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my PhD supervisor, Prof. Haizhou Li—none of this would have been possible without his continuous support and guidance. It has always been my greatest honor to be his student. I am also deeply grateful to my co-authors for their collaboration and contributions throughout this work.

Finally, I sincerely wish APSIPA continued success and growth. I hope the community will inspire more impactful work in the future!

Best Student Paper Award

Shreyas Gopal, Ashutosh Anshul, Haoyang Li, Yue Heng Yeo, Hexin Liu, Eng Siong Chng: *Explainable Disentanglement on Discrete Speech Representations for Noise-Robust ASR*

Certificate of Merit

Takumi Nishiyama, Lantian Wei, Tadashi Wadayama: *Digital-Optical Hybrid Computation for Deep Unfolding-Aided MIMO Signal Detection*



I am deeply honored to receive the prestigious Certificate of Merit at APSIPA ASC 2025.

In this paper, we proposed a digital-optical hybrid computation framework for projected gradient MIMO signal detection that combines error-prone optical circuits with precise digital computation. As a result, we demonstrated that it is possible to achieve robust detection performance comparable to digital-only approaches while maintaining the benefits of optical computing.

This achievement is a testament to the support of many individuals, including my laboratory members, Mr. Wei and Professor Wadayama. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who provided guidance and cooperation.

Finally, I wish for the continued development of the signal and information processing field and the APSIPA community. Thank you once again for this exceptional recognition.

Best Perspective Paper Award

Huy Nguyen, Pride Kavumba, Tomoya Kurosawa, Koki Wataoka: *Foundation Models as Guardrails: LLM- and VLM-Based Approaches to Safety and Alignment*

In our paper, we examine the critical need for robust safety layers in the era of widespread deployment of large language models and vision language models. Our work was motivated by the clear limitations of training-time alignment, which is often costly and insufficient to address the complexities of real-world adversarial attacks.

Our review examines the emerging paradigm of using foundation models themselves as the guardrail. We consolidate the body of work on this “model policing model” approach, which leverages the rich, pre-existing representations of foundation models. This strategy facilitates rapid adaptation to safety tasks with significantly less data and effort than training specialized classifiers from scratch. We also catalog key advantages: the flexibility to dynamically revise safety policies via reasoning-based prompting, avoiding costly, iterative retraining; and the inherent gains in interpretability, as models can generate human-readable rationales for their safety-related decisions.

The primary contribution of this review is to provide a single, comprehensive resource. We collate the academic literature, catalog the prominent industrial tools, and map the key evaluation benchmarks. Our objective was to provide a clear, consolidated overview of the current landscape, summarizing the promise of this approach while identifying the open challenges, particularly in robustness, that remain.

Best Active Noise Control Workshop Paper Award

Ziyi Yang, Zhengding Luo, Dongyuan Shi, Junwei Ji, Boxiang Wang, Haowen Li, Qirui Huang, Woon-Seng Gan: *Meta-Learned Regional Initialization of Control Filters for Headphone Active Noise Control*

I am honored that our work on meta-learning–initialized active noise control was selected for the Best Active Noise Control Workshop Paper Award at APSIPA ASC 2025. In this study, we address practical challenges in implementing ANC systems under realistic acoustic conditions and explore methods to make them more stable and reliable in everyday use. This work is only an early step in this direction, and there is still plenty of room for improvement.

The ANC Workshop was also a very valuable experience. Marking the 90th anniversary of Paul Lueg’s seminal patent, it brought together many leading researchers and practitioners in ANC, from fundamental algorithm design to industrial applications. The keynote and panel sessions offered a rare, comprehensive view of both the history and future challenges of ANC, and the discussions with the audience were particularly stimulating. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to present our work in this community and am very grateful to the organizers and reviewers for creating such a rich and encouraging environment for young researchers.

Winners of APSIPA 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

1st Place: Le Quynh Nhu (Joey) Nguyen

I am sincerely honored to receive the 3MT Award at APSIPA ASC 2025. This recognition means a great deal to me, not only as a young researcher in the field of Biomedical AI, but also personally motivated by the impact of neurodegenerative diseases. APSIPA has been a special community for me. Attending the conference and meeting inspiring scholars gave me not only academic insights but also a sense of belonging and motivation that I will carry with me for a long time.

My research journey in biomedical is deeply personal. Coming from a family affected by neurodegenerative illness, I have always hoped that my work could contribute, even in a small way, to earlier and more reliable detection of cognitive decline. APSIPA provided a supportive environment for me to share this motivation and to receive constructive guidance that strengthened both the scientific and human aspects of my work.

I am profoundly grateful to the APSIPA organizers, reviewers, and community members whose encouragement plays a meaningful role in shaping young researchers like me. This award strengthens my commitment to continue growing, contributing, and staying connected with the APSIPA community.

2nd Place: Ryuichi Sumida

I am deeply honored to have received the 3MT Award at APSIPA ASC 2025. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Tatsuya Kawahara, for his continuous guidance, encouragement, and invaluable advice throughout my research journey. His mentorship has been instrumental not only in shaping my presentation but also in refining my approach to research and communication.

I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to comment on my presentation during the conference. Your thoughtful feedback and kind words truly inspired me and made this experience even more meaningful.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the APSIPA organization and the 3MT committee for hosting such a wonderful event. The competition provided an excellent platform to share research ideas across diverse fields and to learn from the creativity and passion of other participants. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this vibrant and supportive community.

3rd Place: Ziyi Yang

I am grateful that my 3MT presentation can achieve some recognition. For me, this event provided an opportunity to learn how to distill my research into a concise form, and to share it with young peers from different disciplines. It is especially valuable to have the chance to listen to the diverse ideas and motivations behind other projects, and to exchange thoughts with peers who are at a similar stage of their research journey.

Sadaoki Furui Prize Paper Award

The APSIPA Sadaoki Furui Prize Paper Award is presented annually at APSIPA ASC, selected from outstanding papers published over the preceding five years. This year, two papers have been selected for the honor:

Research Paper Award

Yuki Okamoto, Keisuke Imoto, Shinnosuke Takamichi, Ryosuke Yamanishi, Takahiro Fukumori, and Yoichi Yamashita, “Onoma-to-wave: Environmental Sound Synthesis from Onomatopoeic Words,” *APSIPA Transactions on Signal and Information Processing*, Vol. 11, No. 1, e13, 2022. http://dx.doi.org/10.1561/116.00000049

I am truly honored to receive such a prestigious award. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my co-authors, everyone who has supported this work, and the members of the Sadaoki Furui Prize Paper Award committee. Our paper focuses on generating environmental sound from textual onomatopoeia, aiming to generate diverse sounds. We enabled the generation of a wide range of environmental sounds by allowing control over pitch and rhythm, which had been difficult to achieve with conventional environmental sound generation techniques. We hope that our method, even in a small way, contributes to the advancement of current general audio generation technologies and inspires further research in this rapidly evolving area. I will continue to work passionately in research in audio signal processing, machine learning, and audio generation, and I hope to contribute, even modestly, to the development and continued growth of APSIPA and the broader research community.

Overview Paper Award

Xiaofeng Liu, Chaehwa Yoo, Fangxu Xing, Hyejin Oh, Georges El Fakhri, Je-Won Kang, and Jonghye Woo, “Deep Unsupervised Domain Adaptation: A Review of Recent Advances and Perspectives,” *APSIPA Transactions on Signal and Information Processing*, Vol. 11, No. 1, e25, 2022. http://dx.doi.org/10.1561/116.00000192

APSIPA ASC: From Singapore 2025 to Hanoi 2026

Bonnie Law (*VP - Conferences*)

The 17th APSIPA Annual Summit and Conference (APSIPA ASC 2025) was held in Singapore from 22-24 October 2025, bringing together leading researchers in signal and information processing. This year's conference featured over 450 accepted papers, covering a wide spectrum of topics and innovations across the field.

Over three days, participants enjoyed a rich program designed to foster learning, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. Highlights included

- Four tutorials and three keynote speeches
- an Active Noise Control workshop
- Perspective and Panel sessions
- an Education Forum.

In addition, new initiatives such as the Grand Challenge on "City and Time-Aware Semi-supervised Acoustic Scene Classification" and the APSIPA 3-Minute Thesis Competition encourage concise and impactful research communication. These activities offered unique opportunities to engage industry leaders, academic experts, and researchers from across the Asia-Pacific region, inspiring meaningful discussions and fostering future advancements.

Another memorable event was the Founders Forum, which reflected on APSIPA's journey since its establishment in 2009. Past and current presidents shared valuable insights on the association's growth and vision for the future. We hope you enjoyed this year's summit. Photos and award listings can be found on the APSIPA ASC 2025 website.

Looking ahead, APSIPA ASC 2026 will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 9 to 12 November 2026. Please visit http://apsipa2026.org/ for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

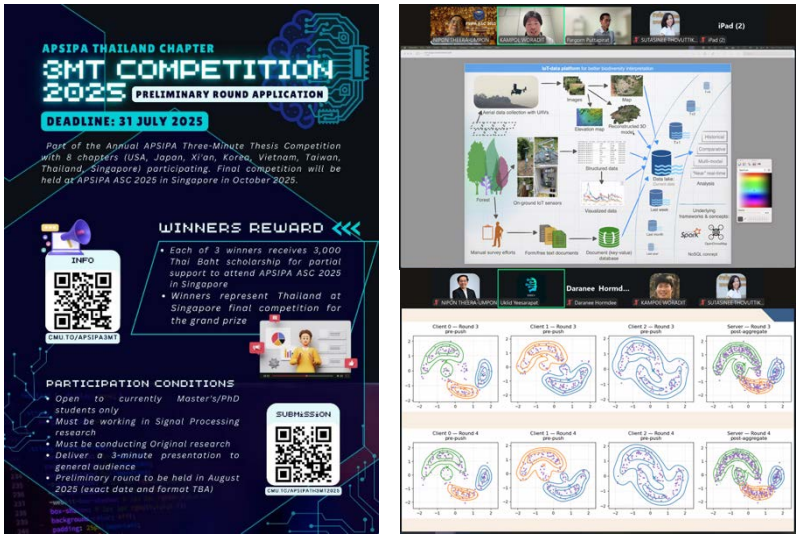
Snapshots of APSIPA ASC 2025.

Thailand Local Chapter

Nipon Theera-Umpon (*Thailand Local Chapter Chair*)

Since the officially establishment in November 2023, APSIPA Thailand Chapter has arranged several activities, for example, APSIPA Thailand Chapter Workshop on Smart Signal Processing and Applications, Electrical Engineering Knowledge-Building Meeting, APSIPA Distinguished Lecturer Program entitled “Fuzzy Set in Data Analysis” by Sansanee Auephanwiriyakul and “Digital Technology and A.I. Applications in Biomedicine and Healthcare” by Nipon Theera-Umpon, etc.

We promoted APSIPA to academic and research communities through many conferences, for example, International Clustering Workshop on Teaching, Researching, and Education, International Conference on Frontiers of Information Technology, Applications and Tools, International Symposium on Sustainable Healthcare Innovation for Future Society, International Conference on Knowledge and Smart Technology, etc. We successfully hosted The Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, APSIPA Thailand Chapter Round, to select Thailand representatives to participate in the main event of 3MT competition during APSIPA ASC 2025 in Singapore. Two representatives, Pargorn Puttapirat (Ph.D. student in Computer Engineering) and Uklid Yeesarapat (Ph.D. student in Computer Engineering) were selected. Both students were respectively awarded with Certificate of Qualification and scholarships to partially support their participation in APSIPA ASC 2025 in Singapore.



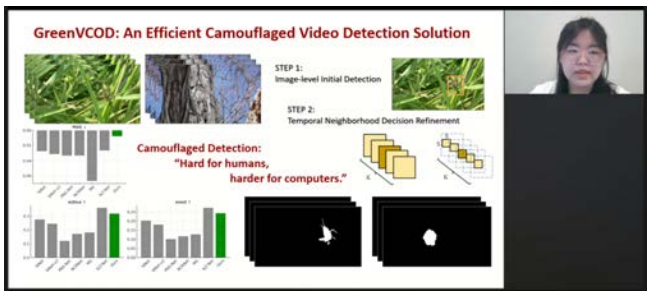
3MT competition at Thailand Local Chapter.

US Local Chapter

Yuhong Liu (*US Local Chapter Chair*)

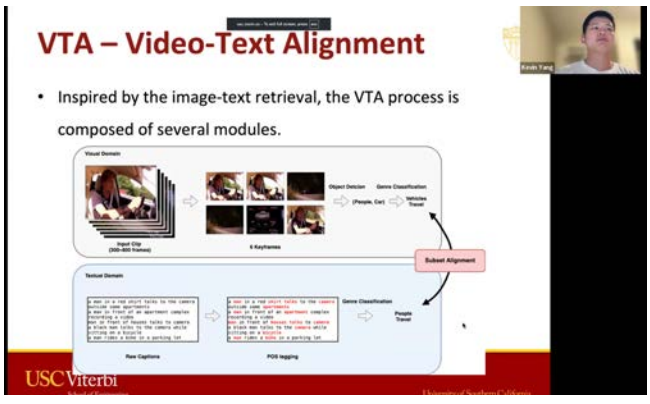
A local APSIPA 3MT thesis presentation competition has been held: The below is the top three Ph.D. students[1].

- Xinyu Wang (University of Southern California): *GreenVCOD: An Efficient Video Camouflage Video Detection Solution*



- Thuy Le (Santa Clara University): *Fight Prostate Cancer*

- Kevin Yang (University of Southern California): *Interpretable and Efficient Video-Text Alignment*



[1] Unfotunately, they were not able to present during the ASC due to the time difference.

APSIPA Autumn School – Trustworthy AI: Security, Safety, and Privacy

Isao Echizen (VP - Institutional Relations and Education Program)

The APSIPA Autumn School, titled “Trustworthy AI: security, safety, and privacy” was successfully held on October 21, 2025, at the National University of Singapore.

The event was inaugurated with an opening speech by Professor Woon-Seng Gan, President of APSIPA. The invited distinguished speakers included Professor Isao Echizen from the National Institute of Informatics, Dr. Rohan Kumar Das from Fortemedia, Dr. Xingri Li from Cadence Design Systems, Professor Ngai-Man (Man) Cheung from Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), and Professor Minoru Kuribayashi from Tohoku University.

The APSIPA Autumn School was organized as a satellite event of the APSIPA ASC 2025 to promote APSIPA's presence in the region and to advance education in signal and information processing (SIP). The theme of the Autumn School, " Trustworthy AI: security, safety, and privacy," reflects the growing importance of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in the field of signal and information processing. Five distinguished speakers each gave presentations under the following titles.

- Real or Fake? Frontiers of Countering Fake Media in the Age of Infodemics, by Prof. Isao Echizen
- Can We Still Trust the Voice?: Advancements in Deepfake Speech Detection, by Dr. Rohan Kumar Das
- AI/ML-Powered High-Level Synthesis Solution, by Dr. Mr Xingri Li
- Privacy Under Threat: Model Inversion in Deep Learning Systems, by Prof. Ngai-Man (Man) Cheung
- Ownership Verification of DNN Models, by Prof Minoru Kuribayashi

APSIPA Autumn School.

Summary of Links

- APSIPA ASC 2026: https://apsipa2026.org/
- APSIPA ASC 2025: https://www.apsipa2025.org/
- APSIPA Transaction on Signal and Information Processing: https://www.nowpublishers.com/SIP
    - Paper submission: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/apsipa
- APSIPA Industrial Activities: http://www.apsipa.org/industrial.htm
- APSIPA Friend Labs: http://www.apsipa.org/friendlab/FriendLabs.htm
- APSIPA Membership Registration/Renewal: http://www.apsipa.org/reg.asp
- APSIPA Local Chapters: http://www.apsipa.org/chapter/index.html
- APSIPA Photo Gallery: http://www.apsipa.org/photo/photo.htm

APSIPA Who's Who

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President-Elect: **Kosin Chamnongthai**, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi

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