

Conference Attendance Award

Post Conference report

Application No. CAA00462023 From Dr Victoria Huang

Form Submitted 12 Sep 2023, 7:52PM NZST

Conference Report

Conference attended

This question is read only.

Location of the Conference

Macao S.A.R, China

Start Date

19/08/2023

Must be a date.

Finish Date

25/08/2023

Must be a date.

What were the highlights and main takeaways of this conference?

Highlights:

- 1. Keynote Speakers:** Renowned experts from academia and industry presented the latest AI applications and advancements. For instance, on the first day of the main conference, the University of Oxford's Associate Professor, Alex Teytelboym, showcased an AI-driven solution designed to enhance the refugee resettlement process and optimize employment outcomes by considering refugees' preferences. At the end of his talk, he also pointed out the potential of AI in aiding refugee-related challenges. Another notable presentation came from Noam Brown of OpenAI. He introduced attendees to CICERO, a pioneering AI agent that combines a language model with advanced planning and reinforcement learning techniques. The AI agent CICERO has achieved human-level performance in an online game called Diplomacy and secured a spot in the top 10% of multi-game participants.
- 2. Paper Presentations:** During the main conference, a diverse range of topics were covered, from foundational AI research to applied AI in various domains like healthcare (e.g., Towards Gender Fairness for Mental Health Prediction, Keeping People Active and Healthy at Home Using a Reinforcement Learning-based Fitness Recommendation Framework), agriculture (Optimizing Crop Management with Reinforcement Learning and Imitation Learning, Customized Positional Encoding to Combine Static and Time-varying Data in Robust Representation Learning for Crop Yield Prediction), and networking (Full Scaling Automation for Sustainable Development of Green Data Centers, Enhancing Network by Reinforcement Learning and Neural Confined Local Search).
- 3. Networking:** The conference facilitated numerous networking opportunities, allowing attendees to connect with peers, potential collaborators, and industry leaders. During the conference, I have met researchers Feifei Zhao from Institute of Automation Chinese Academy of Sciences and Min Cao from the Univerisy of Suzhou. I also had discussion with potential industry collaborators Julian Dolby from IBM, Shen Ren from Continental Automotive.

Main Takeaways:

- 1. Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** The future of AI requires collaboration between various disciplines, from neuroscience to sociology.
- 2. AI in Real-world Applications:** There's a shift from theoretical research to practical applications, with a focus on how AI can solve real-world problems.

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3. Challenges Ahead: While AI has made significant progress, challenges related to data privacy, bias, and generalization remain.

What were the favorite sessions, any contacts you made, etc.

What were the lowlights of the conference?

1. Overlapping Sessions: With multiple parallel sessions, it is challenging to choose between two or more equally interesting presentations, leading to potential missed opportunities.

2. Cost Prohibitive: High registration fees, coupled with travel and accommodation expenses, might deter potential attendees or make the conference less accessible to a wider audience. It would be cheaper and more environmental friendly if the conference organizers provide the virtual option that attendees can join online.

What would you do differently?

How will you plan to share your learnings with the New Zealand Internet Community?

1. Engage on Social Media:

- Share bite-sized insights, quotes, or interesting facts from the conference on platforms like Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook.
- Use relevant hashtags to increase visibility and engagement.

2. Enhance the New Zealand Internet Community through Cutting-Edge AI Technologies:

- Identify the technologies and methodologies presented at the conference with potential benefits for the NZ internet community, such as AI-driven network optimization tools, cybersecurity solutions, or content recommendation systems.
- Engage with stakeholders and initiate pilot projects to test the feasibility and impact of the selected technologies in real-world NZ internet scenarios.

3. Collaborate with Educational Institutions:

- Partner with universities or tech institutes to organize guest lectures or seminars.
- Share my insights with students and faculty, emphasizing the implications for the future of the internet in New Zealand.

We'd love to see some visual and audio representations of your work. Please share below.

Upload files:

Filename: 20230821_lanyard.jpeg
File size: 1.7 MB

Filename: 20230822_keynote.jpeg
File size: 2.3 MB

Filename: 20230823_reception.jpg
File size: 3.6 MB

Filename: 20230824_keynote.jpeg
File size: 2.2 MB

Filename: 20230824_poster.jpeg
File size: 3.2 MB

and/or

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Provide web link:

<https://www.ijcai.org/proceedings/2023/0391.pdf>

Must be a URL

and/or

Provide additional details:

1. A link to my LinkedIn post: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-7106117898410082304-6WKQ?utm_source=s hare&utm_medium=member_desktop

2. A link to the conference paper: <https://www.ijcai.org/proceedings/2023/0391.pdf>

Please include captions, if relevant

Can we use your media content in our own communications?

Yes No Please contact us first
e.g. in our annual report, social media

Financial Report

*** indicates a required field**

Project Income & Expenditure

Please provide details of any project income (funds received) and project expenditure (funds spent) to date.

Use the 'Notes' column to provide any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Income Description	Income Amount (\$)	Notes
InternetNZ Conference Attendance Award	\$4,870.79	Grant from InternetNZ
IJCAI Conference Travel Grant	\$1,680.00	Grant from IJCAI conference (https://ijcai-23.org/ijcai-aij-2023-travel-and-accessibility-grant-program/) USD\$1000 ≈ NZD\$1680 with an exchange rate USD\$1 = NZD\$1.68 on 04th Sep 2023
Personal funds	\$245.65	Extra expenses were covered by myself
Can be grants, donations, personal funds etc.		

Expenditure Description

Expenditure Type

Expenditure Amount (\$)

Notes

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Main conference registration fees	Conference registration fees *	\$1,428.00	Early bird registration fee is \$ 850.00 USD ≈ NZD\$1428 with an exchange rate USD\$1 = NZD\$1.68 on 04th Sep 2023 (Price can be found on https://ijcai-23.org/registration/)
Workshop registration fees	Conference registration fees	\$588.00	Early bird 2-day workshop and Symposia registration fee is USD\$350 ≈ NZD\$588 with an exchange rate USD\$1 = NZD\$1.68 on 04th Sep 2023 (Price can be found on https://ijcai-23.org/registration/)
Return flights	Flights	\$2,238.42	Return flights between Wellington and China
Macau accommodations	Accommodation	\$2,001.17	Macau accommodation from 19th Aug to 25th Aug. Crown Plaza \$690.77 (19th Aug - 21st Aug) + The Parisian \$1310.40 (21st Aug - 25th Aug)
Macau transportation	Other expenditure (add note please)	\$79.41	Transportation within Macau: the hotel <-> the conference and airport
Macau meals	Other expenditure (add note please)	\$247.58	Meals during 19th Aug - 21st Aug in Macau
Communication	Other expenditure (add note please)	\$13.86	Sim card
Insurance	Other expenditure (add note please)	\$200.00	Travel insurance

Income and Expenditure Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$6,796.44	\$6,796.44	\$0.00

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This number/amount is calculated.

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This number/amount is calculated.

Have you experienced any issues with your intended project budget to date? If so, please explain reasons for any major variances or for providing incomplete information:

No

Feedback

Feedback

You are almost at the end of our application process. Before **submitting** your application, please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the acquittal process:

Very easy Easy Neutral Difficult Very Difficult

How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this form?

120

Estimate in minutes (i.e. 1 hour = 60 minutes)

Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to this form that you think we need to consider: