Salute

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) has been supporting workshops and conferences on at least an annual basis for more than 13 years now, bringing together users, developers, and vendors who have a shared interest in machine translation in its widest sense.

In 2005, the annual workshop was rebranded as a conference, given the quality and quantity of papers that EAMT events were able to attract, as well as a big increase in the number of attendees at our events.

However, the EAMT Committee is, as it has always been, receptive to any members who wish to run workshops on particular themes. We were delighted to be approached by Mikel Forcada with a view to endorsing, and supporting, his idea for a 3rd International Workshop on Example-Based Machine Translation (EBMT), following on from previous successful workshops at the MT Summits in 2001 and 2005.

By holding the 3rd EBMT Workshop in 2009, not only do we maintain the 4-year cycle of such events, but more importantly the time is ripe to address the sub-topic of the workshop, namely "Going open-source to revive EBMT". Since the last EBMT Workshop in Phuket, it's clear that relatively few published papers have appeared on EBMT, and still no open-source toolkits exist to entice interested researchers to become active in our area. When we distributed the call for papers, then, we wondered firstly whether we would be able to attract enough papers, and secondly whether any of the papers would address the theme of the workshop.

We needn't have worried, as the programme is strong, diverse, and directly addresses the issue of open-sourcing EBMT software for reuse by the wider community. I am very grateful to Mikel for driving this forward, and I'm sure his initiative will be successful, not just for the EBMT community, but for all researchers in the area of MT.

Before closing, I'd like to thank the programme committee for their invaluable contributions, the invited speaker, panellists and authors of refereed papers, and our sponsors: Science Foundation Ireland, DCU, the CNGL, and the EAMT.

Finally, I wish you all a successful and enjoyable workshop, and also look forward to seeing you all at next year's EAMT Conference in St. Raphaël, May 27–28 2010!

Dublin, November 2009

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