

To the CDC community:

Over the past two weeks, the world has transformed, as we go through a rapidly changing and unsettling time. We are all adapting to a new mode of living, working, and coming together as a community. You must all be in the middle of putting the finishing touches on your high quality paper(s), checking the last theorem, testing the last simulation, running the final experiment, dotting the last i, and crossing out the final t. Or perhaps you have already wrapped up your papers and have uploaded it onto the CDC 2020 website.

Even as you go through these final stages of polishing your papers and uploading them, all of the 2020 CDC organizers are fast at working preparing contingency plans for the running of the conference. Come December, this pandemic may be in our rearview mirror, and the world would have returned to normal. The organizers are, nevertheless, preparing for all possible scenarios including the one where the entire conference may be run virtually, with presentations and participations coming from remote locations. In the past few weeks, irrespective of where you are located, it is quite likely that your meetings and discussions are all online, with everyone becoming intimately familiar with the workings of telecon platforms such as Zoom, Webex, and the like. We are getting ready for the eventuality that in each parallel session, either all accepted papers will be presented remotely, with your audience engaging in a brief q&a at the end of each talk with the same telecon platform, or in a regular conference format with all attending in-person, or anywhere in between. We are planning on innovations in special sessions, public lectures, and social events as well.

I would therefore like to assure you that all systems are go at this point, and urge you to go ahead and upload your papers as you would do in the years past. We look forward to having you all come together and participate in 2020 CDC. We trust that we should be able to do so in person. We are ready for a mix of actual and virtual participation as well. See you in Jeju Island in December!

Anu Annaswamy

President, IEEE CSS