

### CMG-China Report

CMG-China'12 was held at ISTAI'12 in Dandong, China on 8-10 August  
Report by Adam Grummitt who gave a CMG-China plenary session

CMG-China has been nurtured by Shennon Shen (Xianeng Shen) of Risk Management Software (RMS). It has been a part of other conferences in China over the last four years under two other organization-umbrellas, The International Conference on Electronic Measurement & Instruments (ICEMI) and The International Symposium on Test Automation & Instrumentation (ISTAI), on alternate years. A number of informal separate meetings of people interested in establishing CMG-China have been held, and the bylaws have been approved. I was invited to attend their conference this year, as have previous presidents, and I offered to give both a paper and a plenary session. The latter was accepted. Sadly Shennon was unexpectedly called back to the USA by RMS for work in August and could not attend. This was indeed a pity, as I wanted to meet the other potential officers, but at least I could promote CMG-China and maybe persuade some Chinese members to attend CMG'12.

In China it is difficult for a new organization to be set up as an affiliate of an overseas entity, even non-profit like CMG. It involves government procedures and the recommended route is via like-minded indigenous entities, in this case ICEMI and ISTAI. The ICEMI focus is on test and measurement mostly for computers, and it is aligned with the IEEE. The ISTAI focus is on instrumentation and automation, including measurement and testing.

Sadly few at the conference seemed to be aware of CMG-China. However, while in Beijing waiting for the connection back to Heathrow after the conference, I spent a day with the staff who had organised the event and whose boss, Jianping Cui, is the editor and publisher of a number of technical journals and magazines and organises various events (including both ISTAI and ICEMI). His list of publications includes the Journal of Electronic Measurement and Instrumentation, Electronic Measurement Technology, etc. He is working with Shennon to establish a three year plan by the end of this year, which should pave the way for a series of workshops and the like prior to launching a conference of their own.

ISTAI'12 was held in the Crowne Plaza in Dandong, which is a 'small' city in the East of China (with 800K central inhabitants and 2.5M in the urban area) on the Yalu River border with North Korea. All the 'Internationals' arrived at Dandong airport (which is tiny) on the daily flight from Beijing, and things began with some internal committee meetings, registration and an excellent lunch. This paved the way for the opening banquet. The food was again excellent; with lots of local drink available (although it seemed that overall little was actually drunk, despite many toasts). It all lasted just about an hour.

The conference is run very efficiently by Cui's professional event organizing company, including registration, hotel liaison and all the administration. The agenda stated that 'The conference language will be English' which is not a surprising policy for an international conference except that there was only a handful of internationals.

The next day there was a morning coach trip to a central TV tower (with grand scenic views) and the Korean War Memorial (with an interesting perspective on it from the other point of view). After a quick buffet lunch the afternoon sessions were solid (no break at all) from 13:30 to 18:00.

There were five welcoming messages of about five minutes each from the chairman of Dandong CAST, President of Beijing IS&TU, VP of CIS, President of Liaoning CAST and a Dandong Government Officer. Then there were loads of detailed scientific algorithms in essentially academic papers on specific research areas:

- Rotating Machinery Wind Power fault prediction
- Surface Topography and robust product performance (improved surfaces down to nm smooth on engines to improve efficiency)
- Energy Smart Buildings (multiple sensors, sampling, neural networks and fuzzy logic).
- Smart City (31 minutes, 238 slides, all in Chinese with slides all in Chinese script – except 'Smart City').
- Kinematical and Dynamical Merits of Eye-Vergence Visual Servoing – control of visual monitoring of fish or similar movements.
- Wireless and Passive SAW Sensor for Harsh Environments – Surface Acoustic Wave (Rayleigh) analysis of sensors for extremes of heat, cold, pressure etc. and, finally, what seemed a lateral session,
- CMG USA & CMG-China.

I was the last speaker. There were some 100 in the audience at the welcoming including all the organization team. They soon left once everything was under way and were followed over the first couple of hours by about half the audience (possibly including local speakers' staff and graduates from the local University that we visited on Friday). There were some 50 left when I began to speak – and all still there afterwards.



The view from my hotel window,



the conference view in front of me



and the view behind

I (and I suspect others) had difficulty in following the English of some of the speakers. A few of them just read out loud their PowerPoint notes which were in English. One session was in Chinese with 230 slides in 35 minutes – a world record. I did 7 slides in 15 minutes – no PowerPoint Volumetric Medal for Ireland.

Most of the papers were about instrumentation and control with an academic bias on methods of analysis and prediction. There was, not surprisingly, a lot of talk about electronics, sensors, neural networks and automation control. Mostly there was an emphasis on 'smart green' automation and robots used in buildings, cities, cars and improved efficiency of wind power generators and reduced losses in engines.

Sadly it seems that the Chinese are reserved when in a group, and few questions emerged during the sessions. They were mostly raised by other speakers. So when I asked early in my session if there were any involved or interested in IT, then ITSM, then Capacity Management, then Performance Testing, Analysis and Reporting, I got little or no response. I then asked who had heard of CMG and the answer was no-one. This was despite an advertisement on the huge exhibition poster behind me of CMG as a leading 'Technical Co-Sponsor' – meaning virtual sponsorship but no direct money.

I gave a description of CMG International, CMG benefits and potential increased member benefits with a plug for CMG'12. There was no dancing in the aisles when I mentioned Las Vegas or even \$55 per night. There was a quiet buffet dinner and it all ended at 7:30 pm.

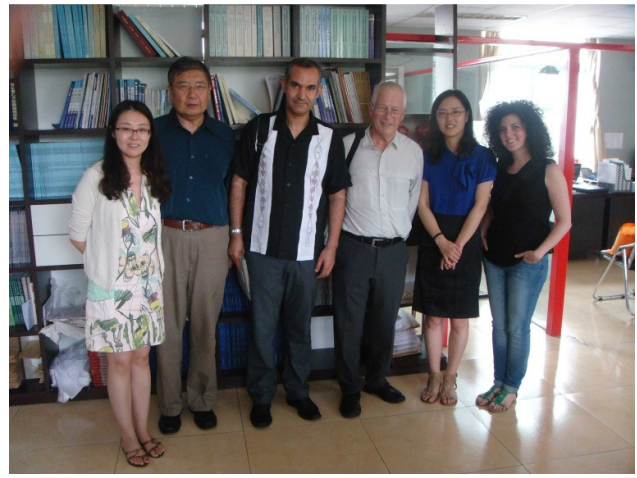
The final morning was split into tracks – I first tried the IT one with a large room full of attendees, maybe 40. Sadly it turned out to be a Chinese-speaking track. The English one was on instrumentation with just 16 attendees. I stayed as it was due to start with introductions, and I thought that could be useful. It was in fact a chance for the seven speakers to introduce themselves, but the chair also asked if I would like to say something. So I said I had been in IT forever, computer measurement for over 20 years, and if anyone had ever heard of CMG-China please do not be shy and come and talk to me during the day. Again, no joy.

I stayed for a couple of (not very ITSM relevant) sessions. One was on fault measurement and prediction on computer controlled machines, and the other was on synchronized control of mechanical systems (such as car-building robots).

Again we took a coach, this time to lunch at the local University (20,000 students) with a tour of some of their facilities including language labs and a poster display area. Then we drove onto the new civic centre outside town and visited Aolon Radiative Instruments and took a tour of their works. This was followed by a tour of the nearby local polytechnic part of the University with more labs, training rooms, robotics etc. Finally we had an excellent conference-ending dinner at a down-town North Korean restaurant though yet again it was all over at 7:30 pm.



Outside Mr Cui's office



and inside

In summary, it was a long flight to Beijing (after a short hop to Heathrow) and a short hop to Dandong for a good conference and meeting a lot of very interesting people doing very interesting research. However, the main benefit was meeting Mr Cui afterwards in Beijing, presenting him with two copies of my book on Capacity Management for the potential officers of CMG China and trying to advise on ways to get CMG-China going, as well as encouraging a group of the potential officers to come to CMG'12 in Las Vegas (especially at \$55 a night). Altogether I had a great visit to China and found the whole experience both interesting and enjoyable. I hope it may have helped pave the way for CMG-China to grow.