IDCS 2016 was the 9th annual event of the conference series dedicated to the Internet and distributed computing systems and was held in Wuhan, China. The previous eight successful conferences included IDCS 2008 in Khulna, Bangladesh; IDCS 2009 in Jeju Island, South Korea; IDCS 2010 and IDCS 2011 in Melbourne, Australia; IDCS 2012 in Wu Yi Shan, China; IDCS 2013 in Hangzhou, China; IDCS 2014 in Calabria, Italy; and IDCS 2015 in Windsor, UK.

The Internet, including widespread use of mobile and wireless devices, has grown as a ubiquitous infrastructure to support the fast development of diversified services. The advent of the Internet of Things, cyberphysical systems, and big data is creating a new technology revolution, i.e., the next generation of internet and Industry 4.0. The integration of the digital world with the physical environment makes our world more intelligent and efficient. Large-scale networked intelligent systems require higher cooperation and interoperation of heterogeneous IoT platforms.

IDCS 2016 received innovative papers on emerging models, paradigms, technologies, and novel applications related to Internet-based distributed systems, including the Internet of Things, cyber-physical systems, wireless sensor networks, next-generation collaborative systems, extreme-scale networked systems, and cloud-based big data systems. The audience included researchers, PhD students, and practitioners that have a general interest in the different aspects of the Internet and distributed computing systems with a more specific focus on practical and theoretical aspects of the cyber-physical systems built with the integration of computer networks, distributed systems, wireless sensor technology, and network applications for complex real-life problems.

IDCS 2016 received a large number of submissions from 13 different countries: 30 regular papers and 18 short papers were accepted after a careful review and selection process. The selected contributions covered cutting-edge aspects of cloud computing and the Internet of Things, sensor networks, parallel and distributed computing, advanced networking, smart cities and smart buildings, big data, and social networks, and smart logistics technology and methods.

The conference also featured six keynote presentations: “Towards Multi-layer Interoperability of IoT Platforms: the INTER-IoT approach” was given by Prof. Giancarlo Fortino, DIMES-University of Calabria, Italy; “An Application of the IoT in Belt Conveyor Systems” was given by Prof. Gabriel Lodewijks, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands; “IoT and Big Data in Intelligent Buildings” was given by Prof. Weiming Shen, National Research Council Canada, Canada; “Security and Privacy in Social Networks” was given by Prof. Yang Xiang, Centre for Cyber Security Research, Deakin University, Australia; “Developments and Prospects of Intelligent Water Transport in China” was given by Prof. Xingping Yan, Wuhan University of Technology, China; and “Semantic Web Technology for Industrial Internet of Things” was given by Prof. Hai-Bin Yu, Shenyang Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.
The conference was held at the Chutian Guangdong International Hotel in Wuhan. The conference venue is immersed in the natural landscape of Donghu Lake and the historic site of the national museum, Hubei Museum.

IDCS 2016 set up a career forum for PhD and master students to provide them with the opportunity to present their project work and discuss how to develop a novelty research topic. A workshop “Smart Transportation and Logistics” proposed by Prof. Xiaoli Jiang, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, was accepted by the conference and 11 papers were accepted for this session.

We would like to thank Wuhan University of Technology, the Science and Technology Council of Wuhan, and University of Calabria for providing financial support to the conference and grants to PhD students from overseas countries, and for offering 2 rewards, one for the best paper and one for the best PhD student paper.

The successful organization of IDCS 2016 was possible thanks to the dedication and hard work of a number of individuals. In particular, we would like to thank Antonio Guerrieri and Qiang Wang (Publications Chair) for their commendable work for the conference publicity and proceedings. We also express our gratitude to the students at the Logistics and Robotics Lab of Wuhan University of Technology, who provided their voluntary support during the conference.

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