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Around the World

(the first time) with *Communications'* Regional Special Sections.

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IN 2017, WE made the strategic decision to launch *Communications'* Regional Special Sections (RSS) and declared “Here comes Everybody ... to *Communications*.” Next month (April 2021), we will publish the special section for Arabia, completing our circumnavigation of the world in three years. We are already hearing clamor for “we want another chance to highlight the best in our region” with a collection of Hot Topics and Big Trends.

It was not easy. The team has navigated complex politics, regional rivalries and tensions, and a wealth of logistics challenges (including COVID-19!) to reveal the remarkable creativity, technology, excellence, and unique computing culture around the globe. And while our reach has been broad and inclusive, we have by no means touched it all. There is much more to be done!

Communications' RSS global initiative's goal is to “give deeper insight, focused coverage, and elevate distinc-

tive and compelling highlights of computing drawn from regions around the world” to enhance the inclusiveness of *Communications* and the ACM. We have circled the globe, putting together six special sections focused on China, Europe, East Asia and Oceania, India, Latin America, and Arabia. We have fulfilled our promise to have each special section led by and comprised of authors from the region. We believe this approach essential to building a strong ACM community throughout the world, spanning academic research, industry, government, and beyond.

The Regional Special Sections each opened a window into a different part of the world for the readership of *Communications*, providing insights and perspective on technical, social, and cultural issues in computing. Specifically, we set out to represent the best of computing leadership and distinctive development for each region with a sharp focus on:

- Leading technical and

China Region Special Section

Europe Region Special Section

Background: academic, industry, government

- % Academic
- % Industry
- % Govt, other

Prior author in ACM or not

- Prior author
- First author

% female authorship

China's Computing Ambitions • Can China Lead the Development of Data Trading and Sharing Markets? • The European Perspective on Responsible Computing • Women Are Needed in STEM: European Policies and Incentives • India Stack—Digital Infrastructure as Public Good • The Positive and Negative Effects of Social Media in India • Capturing Cultural Heritage in East Asia and Oceania • Detecting Fake News in Social Media: An Asia-Pacific Perspective • Understanding Salsa: How Computing Is Defining Latin Music • A Panorama of Computing in Central America and the Caribbean • Autonomous Driving in the Face of Unconventional Odds • Building a Research University in the Arab Region: The Case of KAUST

- research advances and activities;
- ▶ Leading industry and research players;
 - ▶ Innovation and the shape of computing in the region; and
 - ▶ Unique challenges and opportunities.

The special sections have emerged as a “multicultural splendor,” and many readers have shared their praise and compliments for what they learned in reading the special sections—in some cases even one for their own region!

The RSS's unusual diversity of topics is by design. It has a creative format, combining short articles of two formats—Hot Topics and Big Trends. But the insights and colorful perspectives were provided by the extraordinary collection of 269 authors.

As you can see, we have done well in regional diversity, and in reaching beyond the academic research community, but definitely have room for improvement in expanding the community and increasing gender diversity!

I am particularly proud to report that each of the RSSs were led by extraordinary co-leads and authors drawn exclusively from the regions. The Regional Special Section is led overall by Editorial Board co-chairs Jakob Rehof, Haibo Chen, and P J Narayanan (thanks to Sri-ram Rajamani who has recently stepped down), and the Editorial board members (David Padua, Kenjiro Taura, Sue Moon, and Tao Xie). Thanks to this team that works tirelessly to achieve excellence, inclusion, coverage, and interesting insights. Thanks to the co-leads and authors from each region whose efforts are instrumental in bringing an insightful and comprehensive perspective.

Finally, the RSSs were driven by the extraordinary efforts of Morgan Denlow and Lihan Chen; each Deputies to the EiC.

A heartfelt thanks from all of us who have benefited! Now, around again!

Andrew A. Chien, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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**Coming Next Month:
Arab World Special Section**