

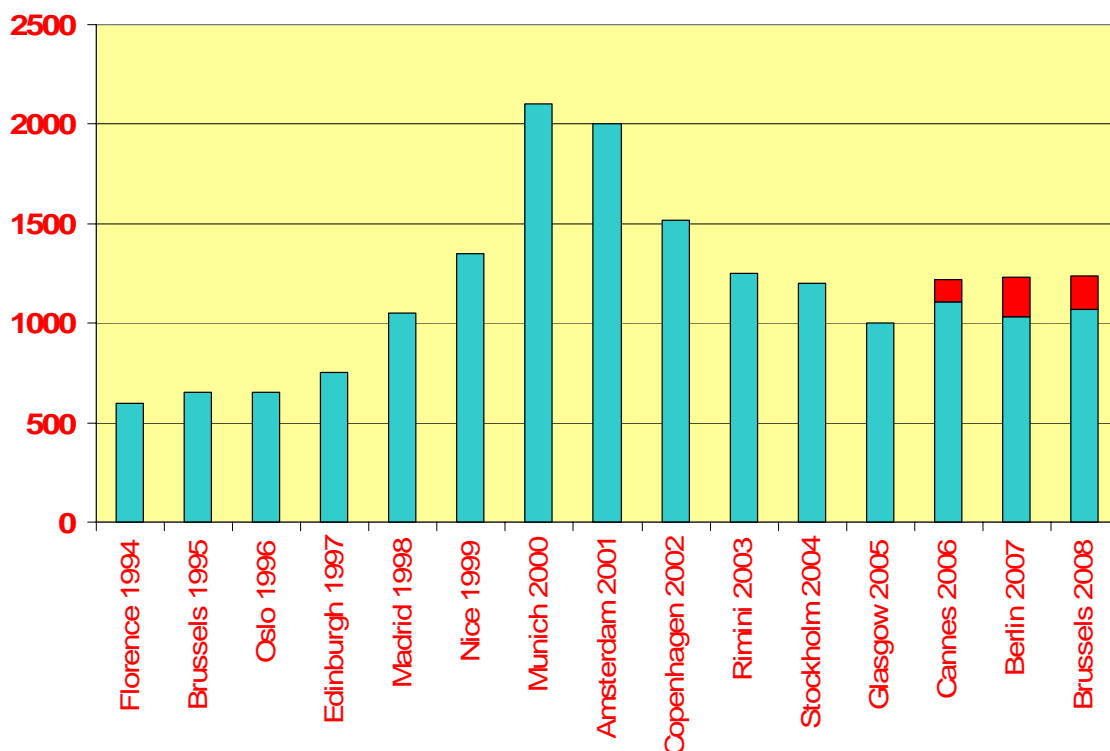
Conference Report
**34th European Conference and Exhibition on Optical Communications
(ECOC 2008)**

Peter Van Daele
IBBT – Ghent University, INTEC Dept., Gent Belgium

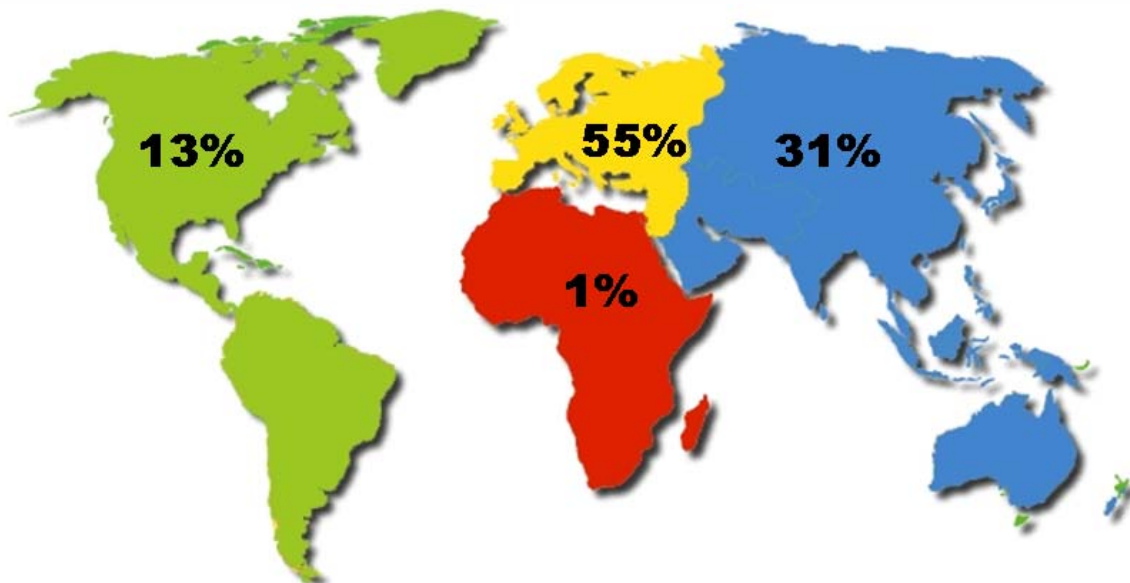
ECOC is the largest conference on optical communication in Europe, and one of the most respected and long-standing events of its kind in the world. ECOC 2008, from 21 to 25 September 2008, was the 34th edition, which indicates the stability and the attractiveness of this conference as one of the world's major events in the field, providing a prime forum for new developments and results in optical communication techniques and networks.

ECOC travels around Europe from year to year and now returned to Brussels. It was there for the first time in 1995, marking the start of the link between a commercial exhibition and the conference. In response to the increasing interest in the field of optical communications both in research and industry, the event has grown since then, both in size and importance and has successfully withstood the internet-bubble and the crisis in the telecommunication industry. ECOC 2007 in Berlin was a great success and ECOC 2008 continues this élan with even more exhibitors and papers from all over the world.

In total 1240 delegates attended the conference with an extra 6000 visitors to the exhibition. This is an increase with respect to ECOC 2007, indicating that the success of ECOC does not depend on the size of the organizing country. The fact that 55 % of the conference delegates are coming from Europe, 31% from Asia/Pacific (in total nearly 250 participants from Japan) and 13 % from North America, indicates that ECOC 2008 was a truly global conference.



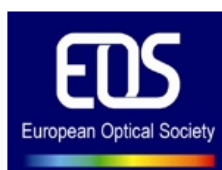
Participants at ECOC over the past few years. The red blocks in ECOC 2006, ECOC 2007 and ECOC 2008 indicate the on-site registrations.



Geographical distribution of ECOC 2008 participants

The program consisted of a set of high-level plenary speakers, tutorials, invited papers, workshops, symposia, and most importantly, parallel sessions with technical papers and posters. The program highlighted new breakthroughs in the field of optical communications in different areas such as: Fibers, Fiber Devices and Amplifiers; Waveguide and Optoelectronic Devices; Subsystems and Network Elements for Optical Networks; Transmission Systems; Backbone and Core Networks; Access and Local Area Networks. As has been the case at ECOC 2006, Brussels also hosted a CLEO Focus Meeting "Physics in Optical Communications" within the ECOC 2008 program. For the first time, the 14th Microoptics Conference (MOC '08) was also co-located with ECOC.

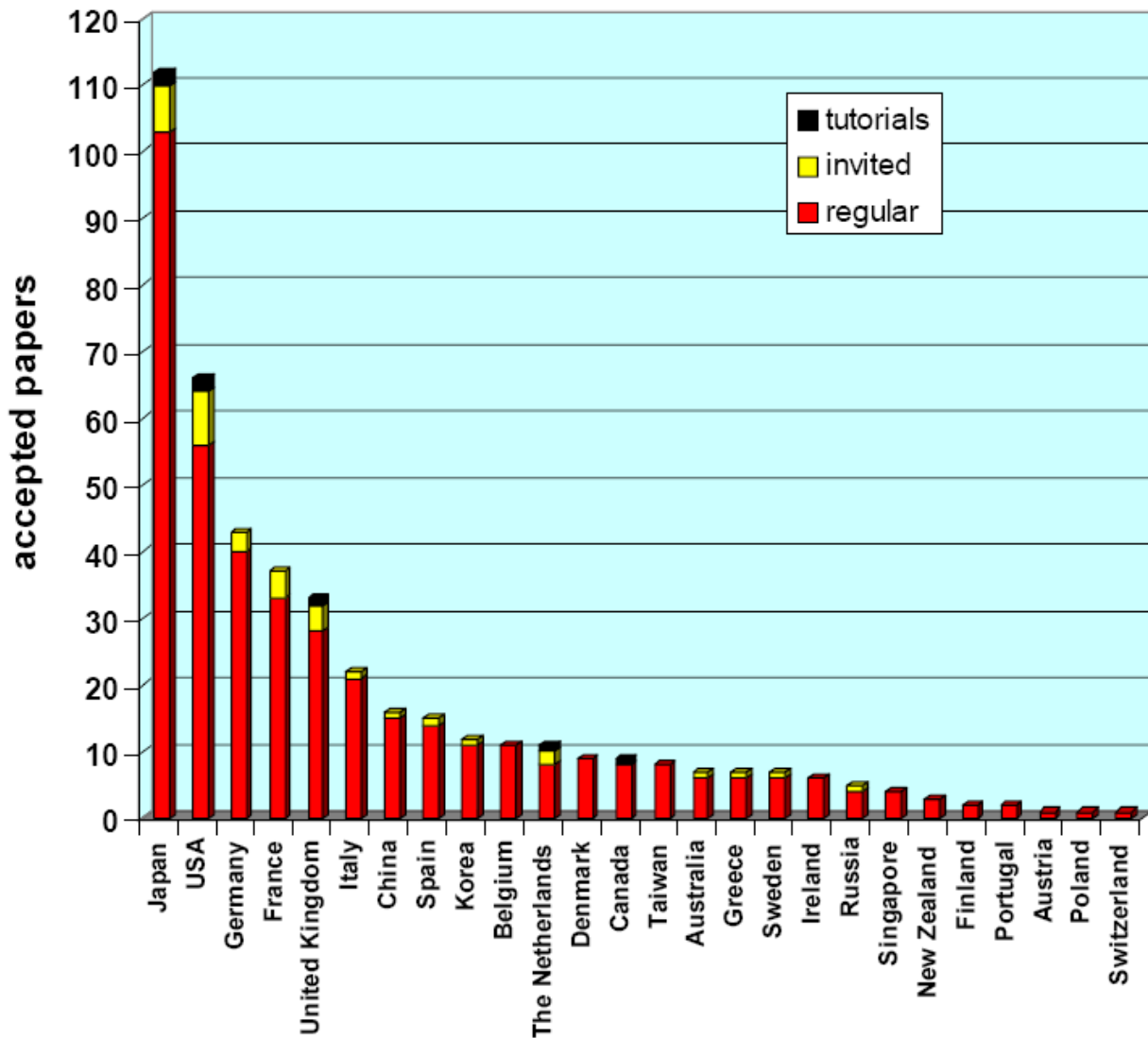
ECOC 2008 was technically co-sponsored by IEEE-LEOS, EOS, EPS, OSA, OSK, IEICE, IET and, Eurel



ECOC 2008 received 811 submission for regular papers and in addition 71 submissions for Post-Deadline papers. Acceptance rate (incl. posters) was about 50%.

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | Subcommittee | Submitted | % | Accepted Oral | Accepted Poster |
|-------------------|----------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|------------|-----|---------------|-----------------|
| | Brussels | Berlin | Cannes | Fibers/Amplifiers | 137 | 18% | 48 | 26 |
| Submitted Regular | 811 | 737 | 955 | Waveguides/OE-devices | 148 | 19% | 47 | 24 |
| Regular Papers | 267 | 268 | 319 | Subsystems/network elements | 133 | 17% | 35 | 16 |
| Posters | 129 | 141 | 210 | Transmission systems | 124 | 16% | 44 | 21 |
| Tutorials | 7 | 7 | 6 | Backbone/ core | 99 | 13% | 31 | 16 |
| Invited Papers | 37 | 37 | 34 | Access/ Lan | 140 | 18% | 48 | 23 |
| | | | | CLEO | 30 | | 14 | 3 |
| | | | | TOTAL | 811 | | 267 | 129 |

Acceptance ratio oral: 34%
Total acceptance ratio: 50%



Paper statistics: Number of 1st author per country

Nine Workshops were held on Sunday 21st September on

- *Multi-tone transmission techniques for optical networks*
- *Workshop on Optical Grids, Drivers & applications for high performance optical networks*
- *Short range optical networks*
- *Optical fiber sensors - where are we and what's to come?*
- *All-Optical versus OEO Networks*
- *ROADM in NG Optical Transport Networks*
- *Towards foundries for photonic components and circuits*
- *2nd Workshop on Future Internet Design (FID)*
- *Everything converged: today, tomorrow and after tomorrow*

The workshops were a great success as indicated by the positive respond from the participants.

The plenary session consisted of three talks. The first talk was by Rod Alferness (Chief Scientist Bell Laboratories, Alcatel-Lucent, USA) on "Optical Communications- A View into the Future". The second talk was by Hans Joachim Grallert (TU Berlin & Managing Director FhG-HHI, Germany) on "Technologies for a Petabit Network". The third was by Hideo Kuwahara (Fellow, Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd., Japan) on "Optical communications as a social infrastructure and its enabling technologies" These plenary presentations highlighted the vision of the speakers on the challenges and opportunities lying ahead for optical communications in the future.

With seven in-depth tutorials, the conference further offered attendees a chance to get up-to-date with some important current topics:

- *"Photonic Bandgap Fibres", T. Birks, University of Bath, United Kingdom*
- *"Silicon photonics for next generation computing systems", Vlasov Yurii, IBM, USA*
- *"Multi-function integrated InP-based photonic circuits", L. Coldren, University of California at Santa Barbara, USA*
- *"High-speed digital signal processing for optical communications" J. Sitch, Nortel, Canada*
- *"Coherent transmission systems", Kikuchi Kazuro, University of Tokyo, Japan*
- *"The future of optical networks", Ken-ichi Sato, Nagoya University, Japan*
- *"Trends in optical access and in-building networks", T. Koonen, COBRA - TU Eindhoven, The Netherlands*

Two special symposia, incorporated in the regular programme of ECOC were organized on: "Fibre-Radio Convergence - how fibre and radio cooperate for delivering broadband services" and on "Network Solutions to Reduce the Energy Footprint of ICT - which role can optics play?"

Social events included a Get-Together Drink, a Belgian Evening and a Conference Dinner. A VIP-event was organised for the members of the Programme Committee, Tutorial Speakers, Workshops organizers,...

The ECOC 2008 papers will become available through IEEE Xplore.

Peter Van Daele

General co-Chair ECOC 2008

IBBT-Ghent University, Belgium