The joint conference of the Fourth International Conference on Information, Communications and Signal Processing (ICICS2003), and the Fourth IEEE Pacific-Rim Conference on Multimedia (PCM2003) was successfully held from 15–18 December 2003 at the Meritus Mandarin Hotel, Singapore. Singapore has been developing and implementing strategies for information and communication technologies for over 20 years. The joint conference is a superb platform for individual engineers, companies and academia from all over the world to report their recent developments and exchange their research ideas in these exciting areas and technologies. We successfully delivered this promise through the conference. We received a total of 625 papers, of which 44 papers were special sessions. The figure exceeded those of previous successful conferences despite the slow start due to the SARS outbreak in the middle of the year. Participation and support from the international research community was evident, as we received papers from 33 countries spanning different parts of the globe including Asia, Australia, Europe and America. A total of 461 high-quality papers were selected for presentation after a comprehensive review process.

The conference began on 15 December with 4 tutorials delivered by world-renowned speakers, who gave in-depth and insightful discussions on advanced topics related to the conference programme. Response to the conference tutorials was positive.

The opening ceremony was held on 16 December, graced by the Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Boon Swan Foo, Managing Director of Agency for Science, Technology and Research. We were also delighted to have two keynote addresses on issues central to the latest developments in information, multimedia communication and signal processing research. The first keynote address by Prof. L. Rabiner of Rutgers University, U.S.A., entitled "Telecom Technology for the 21st Century", attracted a keen, near full-house audience. The second keynote address, "Data Mining on DNA Microarray Data for Gene Selection and Classification" by Prof. S. Y. Kung of Princeton University, U.S.A., held on 17 December was equally well received.

The technical papers were arranged into six parallel sessions, covering the main technical areas of the conference, that is, Multimedia Systems, Computer Systems, Signal Processing, Communications and Networking. A total of 54 technical sessions were arranged. All were well attended and received.

ICICS-PCM 2003 has come to a successful conclusion. The organizing committee hopes that the conference delegates and participants had a positive experience of the conference. We sincerely thank them for their participation and look forward to meeting them again in 2005.