IJCNLP Conference
Jeju City (Jeju Island, South Korea, 11-13 October 2005)

Most of the papers were about Asian languages.

Key-speeches, invited speakers:
"Situated NLU" (Tanaka Hozumi, Japan)
"Software and NLP R&D Strategy in Korea" (Seyoung Park, Korea) – real interest in Semantic Web, Speech processing, MT, QA..
"Progress in NLIP. What does the summarizing task tell us?" (Karen Sparck Jones, UK)
"Exploiting Models of Semantic Overlap for Applications" (Bill Dolan, USA)

Contacted Persons:
Iryna Gurevych (EML Research, Heidelberg, Germany)
Chu-Ren Huang (Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan)
Kristina Spranger (University of Stuttgart, student) – She told me about the existence of a lexicon managing system by Erlandsen (iLex).
Participants of the OntoLex Workshop
Danushka BollegalSessions attended:

Sessions attended:
1. Information Retrieval, Text Mining, Ontology and Thesaurus
2. Machine Translation I, Machine Translation II, Posters and Demos
3. Text Summarization, Linguistic Resources and Tools, NLP Applications, Language Model
a (University of Tokio, Japan)

Organization:
As far as I could appreciate (it was my first conference) it was everything very well organized: posters, pictures, information immediately updated, very good technical support, really helpful organizers that were at the conference place all the time, internet cafe, coffee breaks (not with much food), lunches, welcoming party, banquet, a way of announcing the participants that the sessions are starting, etc.
For more information see photos and conference materials.

Statistical data:
Around 300 participants: 11% European, 10% North America, 2% Africa and Australia, 77% Asia.

Accepted:
papers: 88
posters:42
demos: 4

workshops: 5
tutorials: 3

Domains: IR, Parsing, Web mining, Disambiguation, Text mining, MT, Document analysis, Ontology and thesaurus, Relation extraction, Text classification, Transliteration, QA, Morphological and semantic analysis, Test summarization, Name Entity Recognition, Linguistic resources and tools, Discourse analysis, NLP applications, Tagging, Language models, Spoken language, Terminology mining

Next IJCNLP will be held in India, 2007.

Other announced conferences: ACL/Colling (Sydney, 2006), HLT-NAACL (New York, 2006)

Accepted paper ("*MANAGELEX and the Semantic Web*", with. C. Vertan) at
OntoLex Workshop
(IJCNLP-05, 15 October 2005)

Description:
In the workshop most of the papers were mostly about ontologies.

Papers:
Out of 13 papers, 12 were presented. One of the most interesting presentation was "The Omega Ontology" (Eduard Hovy). It contains, among other things, problems that might appear when merging ontologies. Some of them are interesting to consider when merging lexicons (for ManageLex).

Presentation:
The presentation was successful. I had 30 minutes (presentation and questions). I talked approx. 15 minutes and than I made a small demo. The questions that I was asked were:
1. If we considered GOLD (General Ontology of Linguistic Description) when building LexMod
2. How exactly is the merging operation done
3. If we want to finish the tool and when do we believe it will be ready.

Organization:
4 sessions of about 90 or 60 minutes. There were 7 long (30 minutes) and 4 short (15 minutes) papers/presentations.
All things (beamer, microfon, illumination, etc.) were very well organized.

Statistical data:
12 presentations, approx. 40-50 participants.

Next OntoLex workshop it will probably be at LREC, May 2006 Italy. ("Interfacing Ontologies and Lexical Resources for Semantic Web Technologies")

Important: Possibility of publishing a book at Cambridge Press (Studies in NLP) with the papers from the OntoLex workshops. We will be announced in this direction by the organizers.

Expenses:

Hotel: 520.000 KRW (approx. 520 USD) (see the attached invoice)
Conference and workshop fees: 280 USD (180 + 100) (see the attached invoice)

Total: 800 USD (approx. 667 EUR)

Flight: 934 EUR (already paid 910)

South Korea:

Asian country, quite developed, with prices similar or less expensive as in Western Europe. As far as I could appreciate it a rather secure country. I encountered no special problems.