Change of method for holding the 37th International Symposium on Automation and Robotics in Construction

The infectious disease caused by COVID-19, which started at the end of last year, quickly spread around the world, and many people are still suffering from its effects. We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to all the people who are in a severe situation, including those who have lost loved ones and/or have been infected by the disease.

We have been making preparations to host the 37th International Symposium on Automation and Robotics in Construction (ISARC2020) in Kitakyushu City, Japan from October 26 to 30 this year. More than 390 abstracts were submitted from 33 countries. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the authors and all others who cooperated with the preparations. However, there is still no clear end in sight to COVID-19. For this reason, we have decided to hold the symposium online as we cannot guarantee a safe environment for participation in the symposium at this stage. We had very much been looking forward to interacting with many participants from all over the world, but under the present circumstances, we consider it an unavoidable decision. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding.

The outline of the planned online symposium is as follows. In the near future, we will contact all of you who submitted your abstracts by the February deadline and ask whether or not you would like to participate in the online conference. Your response to it would be much appreciated.

May 20, 2020

Organizing Committee of the ISARC2020
Committee Chair Kazuyoshi Tateyama
College of Science and Engineering, Ritsumeikan University
Outline of the Online Symposium

1) Period   October 26 (Mon) - October 30 (Fri), 2020

2) Treatment of papers
In accordance with the scheme originally envisaged, we request the authors to submit their papers by June 15th. The submitted papers will be peer reviewed and included in the Proceedings. Participants will be notified of their ID and password, and will be able to download all the contents of the Proceedings by themselves.

3) Presentations and Sessions
Due to the difficulty of facilitating and managing each session, we will not be able to offer the opportunity for individual oral presentations online. Sessions will be set up with technical papers for each theme, and questions and answers to each paper will be carried out in a web format.

4) Award
The reviewers will be requested to score the papers in the peer-review process, and the paper with the highest score will be presented with the excellent paper award.

5) Events
The opening and closing events, as well as the special and keynote speeches, will be broadcasted via video or You Tube, etc.

6) Field excursions
We will request construction sites where construction work is being done with construction robots to provide some videos or related materials to introduce their sites. We will make them accessible to all the participants on our web site.

7) Registration fee
The original registration fee has changed. The new registration fee will be set based on the costs of holding the online symposium, the membership fee to IAARC, and the number of participants. The final registration fee will be announced on the web site at a later date, but it will be about US$200 to $400.

8) Others
Please note that the above information or methods may be subject to change due to issues encountered during the preparations.

9) Contact information
If you have any questions about these matters, please contact us through the support banner on the web site (https://isarc2020.org/support.html).