



SLTU Board

Laurent Besacier (LIG, France)

Dr. Laurent Besacier is the co-founder of the SLTU Workshop series and chaired successive editions of SLTU Workshops. He is also a co-author of the survey on Automatic Speech Recognition for Under-Resourced Languages, published in Speech Communication Journal in 2014. He has been contributed in automatic speech recognition (and translation) for under-resourced languages from Europe, Asia and Africa. Now, he is particularly focused on sub-saharan African speech technologies and conducts inter-disciplinary studies on this topic.



Zero Resource Speech Challenge

Emmanuel Dupoux (EHESS, France)

Dr. Emmanuel Dupoux is the head of an interdisciplinary research team at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris devoted to the computational modeling of infant language acquisition. He organized the zero-resource speech challenge which aims at mimicking early language development through the unsupervised discovery of linguistic units.



Babel Project

Stavros Tsakalidis (BBN, USA)

Dr Stavros Tsakalidis is a Principal Investigator on the IARPA Babel Program, which focuses on developing automatic speech recognition and keyword spotting technology that can be rapidly applied to any human language given limited resources in that language.



UNESCO

Ming Kuok Lim (UNESCO, Indonesia)

Dr Ming-Kuok LIM is the Advisor for Communication and Information for UNESCO Office in Jakarta. Mr Lim is responsible for UNESCO's advocacy campaign to strengthen and raise awareness on freedom of expression, press freedom, safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. Mr. Lim is part of them team at UNESCO which supports capacity building for journalists, advises on media policy, and expanding journalism curricula to reflect the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Academia
Steven Bird (Uni-Melbourne, Australia)

Prof. Steven Bird is researching new methods for documenting and revitalising the thousands of small languages still spoken in the world today. He has worked at the Universities of Edinburgh, Pennsylvania, Melbourne, and Berkeley, and conducted fieldwork in Australia, West Africa, Melanesia, Amazonia, and Central Asia.



Industry
Martin Jansche (Google)

Dr. Martin Jansche is a staff software engineer working in Google's research division. He has been involved in deploying speech and language technology for numerous languages, ranging from Afrikaans to Zulu (with a detour through Pig Latin). He is currently working on Project Unison, which aims to rapidly bring Google's spoken language technology to traditionally under-resourced languages.



Open-Source Software
Kaldi: Sanjeev Khudanpur (JHU, USA)

Dr. Sanjeev Khudanpur is a founding member of the Johns Hopkins University Human Language Technology Center of Excellence, member of the Center for Language and Speech Processing, and member of the steering committee of the Johns Hopkins University Science of Learning Institute.



Country Representative Indonesia
Mirna Adriani (UI, Indonesia)

Dr. Mirna Adriani works on Bahasa Indonesia dan Indonesian local languages in speech, text, and multimedia processing. She collaborates with other researchers in regional areas (ASEAN and Asia) to develop under-resourced language resources and tools.



Country Representative India
Shyam Agrawal

Dr. Shyam Agrawal has been working in the area of Speech perception, processing and development of databases using Hindi and other low resource Indian languages for the past 40 years. He has worked as a Visiting Scientist at MIT, UCLA and OSU in USA. Currently Principal Investigator of Indian Govt. funded and internationally collaborated projects.



Country Representative Russia
Alexey Karpov (SPIIRAS, Russia)
Email: karpov_a@mail.ru



Country Representative South Africa
Charl van Heerden (NWU, South Africa)

Dr Charl van Heerden is a senior researcher at North-West university, and has been working on speech recognition in under resourced languages for 10 years. He has been involved in building systems for, and collecting ASR and TTS resources for South Africa's 11 official languages. More recently he has been focusing on pronunciation lexicons and syllabification for under-resourced languages in the Babel project as part of the BBN-led Babelon consortium.