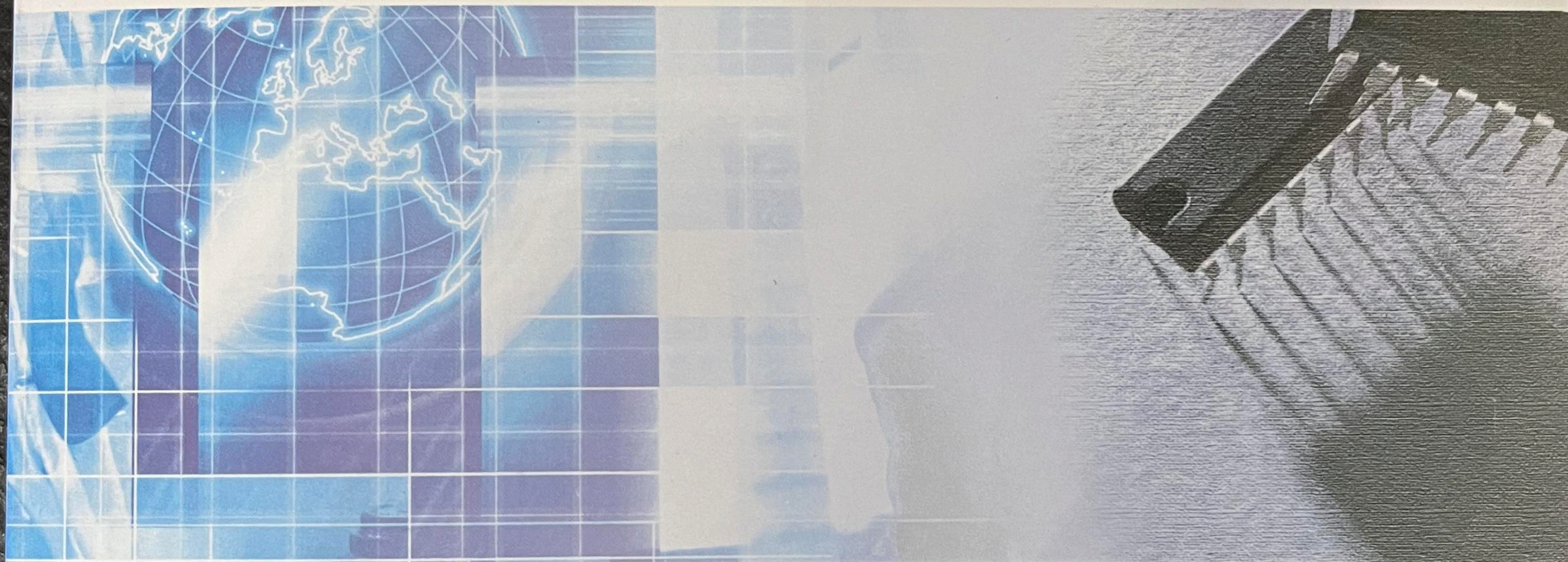


Mobile Communication and Social Change

2004 International Conference on Mobile Communication
October 18-19, 2004 Seoul, Korea.



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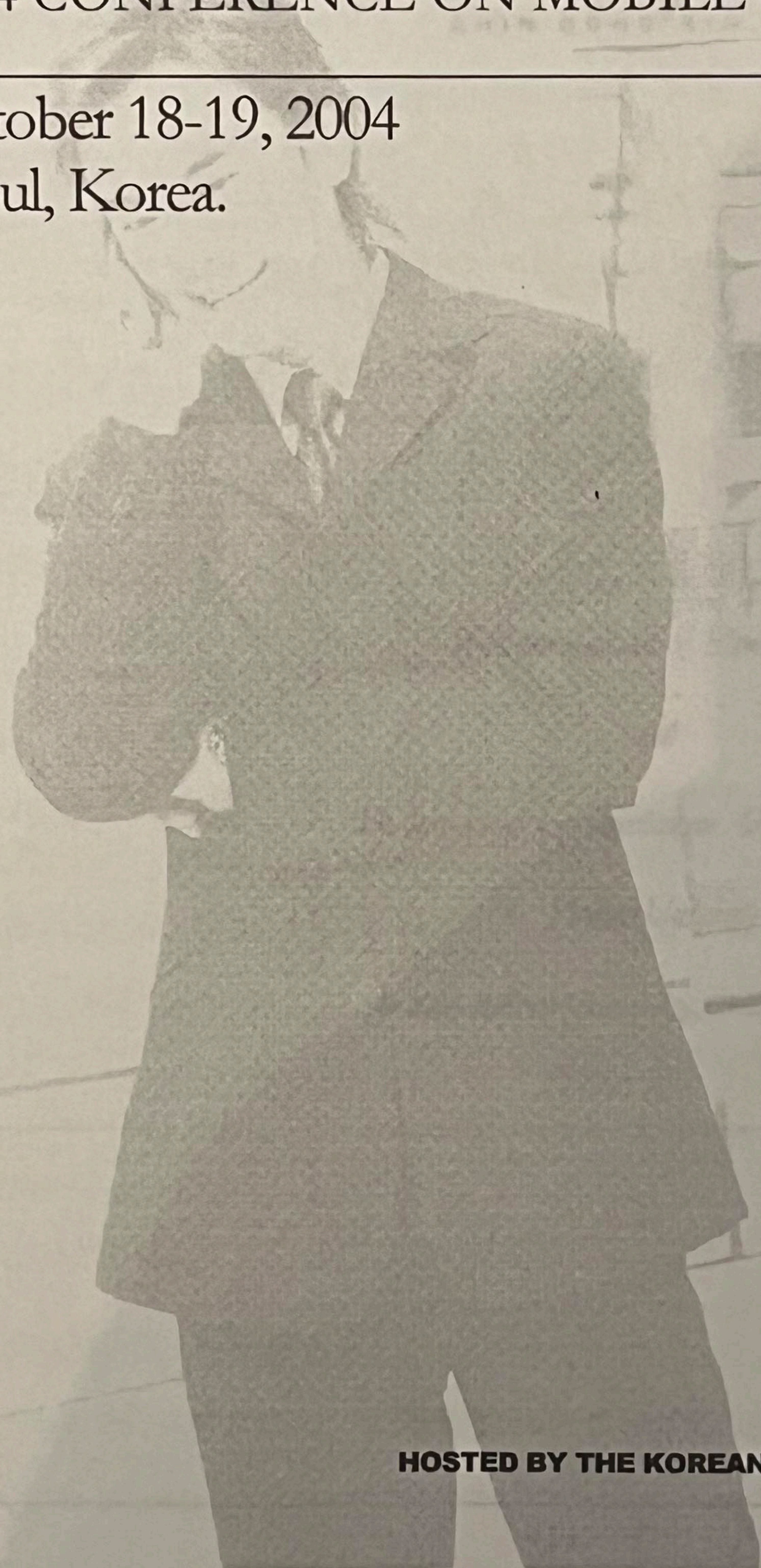
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WELCOME

Shin Dong Kim

Some years ago, when the mobile phone was still at the initial stage of its diffusion worldwide, countries in East Asia displayed top rates of penetration in a very short period. Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan were easily spotted on top of the list along with some European countries. As the diffusion stage proceeds to the next phase, the rates do not seem to mean much as they once did. But the East Asian initiative in mobile technology and industry is well and vivid. Japan has never allowed others to take the lead in mobile technology, and always introduced the next generation devices and services. Korea's quantum leap into the most wired society has already received much attention from every corner of the globe. The country's high rates of broadband Internet access became a showcase. The impact of the technological breakthrough seems to be mirrored in the nation's politics, economy, and culture.

My first international commitment to the research of mobile communication came from an unexpected invitation from across the Pacific in 1999. Dr. James Katz organized a workshop on mobile communication at his Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and the result of the gathering was later developed into the book, *Perpetual Contact*. Dr. Katz workshop saw its sequel on the same site in 2001 with increased diversity in perspectives and papers. Since the exchanges at the provoking workshops were so precious, I thought the 'show must go on.' As Seoul hosted the 52nd ICA annual conference in the following year, I initiated to take the ball and organized a pre-conference on mobile communication in Chuncheon, Korea. The baton was handed to Rich Ling in Norway (2003) and Leopoldina Fortunati in Italy (2004). Kristof Nyiri in Hungary has also been hosting very productive meetings in the last couple of years.

If well prepared, conference going is a pleasure as well as a reward for academics. It is basically a symposium of like-minded scholars who can easily make themselves contented when they can 'communicate.' From the conferences and workshops, I have felt that somehow East Asian forerunners are quite slow in academic discourse and research while their mobile technology and business are topping the field. This conference is a small effort to fill the gap. In the last few decades, the region called East Asia was one of the most dynamic parts of the world in terms of political democratization, economic development, and cultural influx. Social change was everyday aspect of the region and thus sometimes change seem to mean little. But the region including Korea is still left with long journey to sail toward progress. Challenging issues are awaiting just ahead and we all hope technology will open a constructive way for us to stride. "Mobile Communication and Social Change," the theme of this conference was adopted for this reason.

This conference is truly international in a couple of senses. Its panels present speakers and respondents from over twenty countries, and it is not Western dominant, as Dr. Dale Eickelman from Dartmouth pointed out. Organizing a conference is a project with endless chores and stress. Many people toiled to make it happen. Professor Jae-bum Kim, the president of the Korean Association of Broadcasting Studies was responsible for the brave final decision on the size of this conference. His leadership and support made all this possible. Dr. Chang Yoon Joo worked hard to facilitate all the logistics for the meeting. Dr. Jin-han Bae and Dr. Hyun Ban, as members of the Program Committee of the conference for which I serve as a chair, add their contribution. I am very grateful to Dr. James Katz and Dr. Rich Ling for their acceptance of keynote speeches, and I also deeply thank all the paper presenters. Florence Chee performed a miracle in rapidly compiling all the diverse manuscripts, turning them into valuable proceedings. The event was also prepared with the assistance of top-flight students from both Hallym and Hanyang universities.

Shin Dong Kim

Chair, Program Committee
 Director, Institute for Communication Arts and Technology (ICAT)
 Associate Professor, School of Communication, Hallym University

GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN MOBILE COMMUNICATION

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THE YOUNG ONES ARE MOBILE

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By Anil M. Sahay

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