

IEEE CIS-RAM 2026 Convenes in Changchun and Extends the SMC Community's Reach into Under-represented Region

By Yan Wu, Chair, IEEE SMC Society Singapore Chapter

The 12th IEEE International Conference on Cybernetics and Intelligent Systems & Robotics, Automation and Mechatronics gathered researchers from around the world in Changchun, China, with Amity University in Noida, India, among its co-organizers and a satellite site carrying the program into one of the world's fastest-growing R&D regions.

From 5 to 8 August 2026, the international cybernetics, intelligent-systems, and robotics community convened in Changchun, China, for the 12th IEEE International Conference on Cybernetics and Intelligent Systems (CIS) and the 12th IEEE International Conference on Robotics, Automation and Mechatronics (RAM)—known jointly as IEEE CIS-RAM 2026. CIS and RAM have been co-located since the series began in Singapore in 2004, a deliberate pairing meant to exploit the synergy between intelligent-systems theory and its embodiment in robotics and automation. This year's edition drew experts from universities, research institutes, and industry worldwide for deep exchange on embodied intelligence, robotics, autonomous systems, and intelligent control.



The opening ceremony of IEEE CIS-RAM 2026

A broadly international collaboration

The conference is a joint flagship conference of the IEEE RAS Singapore Chapter and the **IEEE SMC Singapore Chapter**. This edition was co-organised by the IEEE Harbin Section, the IEEE RAS Guangzhou Chapter, and Jilin University, with Changchun University of Technology and Amity University (India). Strong support came from Jilin University's College of Artificial Intelligence and College of Communication

Engineering, the Chinese Association of Automation's symbiotic-robotics committee, the China Computer Federation's intelligent-robotics committee, and the journal Intelligence & Robotics. Prof. Xuan Song, Dean of Jilin University's College of Artificial Intelligence, and Dr. Ashok Chauhan, Founder President of Amity University, served as Honorary Chairs; the General Chairs were Prof. Yixing Gao (Jilin University), Prof. Guoqiang Hu (Nanyang Technological University), Prof. Gurinder Singh (Amity University), and Dr. Yan Wu (A*STAR, Singapore).

Keynotes and a dialogue with academicians

Three keynotes framed the technical program. Prof. Sumei Sun (A*STAR, and Fellow of the Singapore Academy of Engineering) spoke on “Pervasive Sensing and Connectivity for Real-Time and Embodied Intelligence,” linking 6G space–air–ground networks and sensing to maritime and aviation transformation. Prof. Yiannis Demiris (Imperial College London) presented “Personal Assistive Robotics,” covering multimodal perception, user modeling, and human–robot trust in applications from smart wheelchairs to robot-assisted dressing and feeding. Prof. Sun Fuchun (Tsinghua University) delivered “Tactile VLA with Built-in Physics for Robotic Operations,” on fusing tactile sensing and physical knowledge with vision–language–action models for precise manipulation.



Keynote Speeches of IEEE CIS-RAM 2026

A “Distinguished Voices - Legacy in Dialogue with Academicians” session, moderated by Prof. Chen Lyu (Nanyang Technological University), brought together Prof. Danwei Wang (Fellow of Singapore Academy of Engineering), Prof. Sumei Sun (Fellow of Singapore Academy of Engineering, and Prof. Jianwei Zhang (Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Member of the German Academy of Science

and Engineering) to weigh the trends, frontier challenges, and future opportunities of AI, intelligent systems, and robotics.



The Dialogue with Academician of IEEE CIS-RAM 2026

Scale and recognition

Around the keynotes, the program ran 20 technical forums—16 in person and four online—hosting 93 paper presentations spanning embodied intelligence, robot learning and control, embodied perception and navigation, intelligent transportation, and autonomous systems. Industry reports, an exhibition, and live robot demonstrations connected the research to practice. Four honours recognized standout work: the Best Paper Award, the Best Student Paper Award, the Best Scaling-Up Paper Award, and the Best Open Impact Paper Award. Accepted papers follow the series' tradition of submission to IEEE Xplore and indexing by EI Compendex.

Extending SMC's reach into India

For this edition of CIS-RAM, the most forward-looking feature was geographic. Alongside the Changchun program, CIS-RAM 2026 ran a satellite site in Noida, India, spearheaded through co-organizer Amity University—whose leaders, Dr. Ashok Chauhan and Prof. Gurinder Singh, sat on the organizing committee. Noida, in India's National Capital Region, anchors one of the country's densest concentrations of universities, engineering talent, and technology industry, and India has become one of the fastest-growing contributors to global R&D in AI, robotics, and intelligent systems—precisely the areas CIS-RAM convenes.

The presence of the IEEE SMC Singapore Chapter among the organizers makes the India expansion directly relevant to the society. A satellite lowers the cost and travel burden for early-career Indian researchers and students who might not otherwise reach a flagship venue in China, letting them present and plug into an established international community close to home. Extending the society's footprint into India is less about a single event than about seeding relationships—reviewers, chapter volunteers, student members, and future organizers—that compound over successive years, and the twin-site model offers a useful case study for how the SMC community can broaden its geographic reach.

Held as Jilin University marks its 80th anniversary, CIS-RAM 2026 combined a high-level technical platform with a deliberate step toward embedding the systems, man, and cybernetics agenda more firmly in one of the world's most dynamic research ecosystems. More information on the series is available at cis-ram.org.

About the Author



Dr Yan Wu

Dr Yan Wu is a Principal Scientist and the Deputy Head of the Embodied AI & Robotics Chapter with the A*STAR Institute of Advanced Intelligence and Computing, Singapore, and the Director of Graduate Affairs with the A*STAR Graduate Academy. He previously served as the Deputy Head of the Robotics and Autonomous Systems Division with the A*STAR Institute for Infocomm Research and Co-Lead (Technology) of the A*STAR Robotics Horizontal Technology Coordinating Office. His research interests include embodied intelligence, tactile perception and control, robot learning and dexterity, and human–robot interaction. As an active volunteer with the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (SMC), Yan serves as a member of the IEEE SMC Society Board of Governors and the Chair of the SMCS Singapore Chapter.

Email: yan.wu@ieee.org **Website:** www.yan-wu.com