The first edition of IEEE International Conference on Identity, Security and Behavior Analysis (ISBA 2015) was recently held in Hong Kong from March 23 to March 25 2015. This conference is sponsored and initiated by the IEEE Biometrics Council. While there are several conferences on biometrics, the biometrics council advisory committee (AdCom) felt that a conference dedicated to identity, security and behavioral analysis solely sponsored by the IEEE Biometrics Council is needed to address the issues that connect these themes as well as topics that are not traditionally covered by biometrics conferences.

This year the first edition of this conference received 57 paper submissions. With great help from 77 reviewers the program chairs were able to manage the review process of the submissions and accepted 14 papers for 4 oral sessions, 5 papers for a short oral session and 9 papers for 2 poster sessions. In order to select the papers for the conference, program-chairs used the comments from the reviewers to rank these papers. Based on the reviewers’ recommendations, the program chairs discussed all the submissions, except those co-authored by a program chair. Non-conflicting program chair(s) handled the latter types of papers.

The technical program schedule for ISBA 2015 encompassed a broad range of topics including advances in fundamental biometrics security, new algorithms and/or technologies for human identity and behavior analysis, user-centric security and privacy, balancing user friendliness and high security, and human aspects of biometrics-driven security. Areas of coverage also included biometrics modalities, economics of biometrics security for end user, security policies and user behavior well as social influence in biometrics security and privacy decisions. The paper presentations were complemented with 2 invited tutorials talks offered by two distinguished researchers. The tutorial topics were chosen to emphasize the most mature and widely deployed biometrics technologies and best practices. The tutorial speakers were Xiaoqang Wang (Deep Learning) and Rama Chellappa (Sparse Representations, Dictionary Learning and Domain Adaptation for Image and Video-based Authentication). The tutorials were held on March 23rd with breaks and working lunch that provided additional opportunities for the speakers to interact with the conference participants.

ISBA 2015 also featured a most distinguished set of speakers: Angela Sasse from University College London and Vijay S Madan, UIDAI (India). Angela Sasse delivered a keynote talk titled ‘Implicit Authentication via Biometrics: Usability Triumph or Privacy Disaster?’. Her talk also included findings from a recent study, sponsored by the NIST (USA), which underlined that the regular computer users suffer from authentication fatigue, and re-organize their
work to reduce the burden caused by explicit authentication (where they user is challenged to provide credentials). Vijay S Madan, Director General of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) delivered invited talk titled ‘Aadhaar: Touching a Billion Lives’. This invited talk enlightened the participants on the architecture, advancements and the challenges of the Aadhar program initiated to deliver a unique identity for billion plus citizens of India.

The program for ISBA 2015 also witnessed a panel session on Identity and Behavior Analysis: Two Sides of the Security Coin. This panel session was chaired by Rama Chellappa (University of Maryland, USA) and included Brian C. Lovell (The University of Queensland), M. Angela Sasse (University College of London), Mayank Vatsa (IIIT Delhi) and P C Yuen (Hong Kong Baptist University). Vigorous arguments were presented to underline the complimentary role of behavior analysis in establishing human identity with examples of cases when tools like biometric analysis fails in establishing the identity. The panelist also called for the need to incorporate behavior analysis in bringing or serving convenience in human lives and noted the behavior analysis is traditionally seen as a key component in security analysis.

ISBA 2015 received generous support from several organizations without which this conference would not have been possible. In particular, support from NEC Hong Kong, The IET Publishing, Department of Computing and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University is much appreciated and acknowledged. Conference organizers also provided financial support to various participants of the doctoral consortium which was held in conjunction with ISBA 2015. This doctoral consortium was organized by Ioannis Kakadiaris and attracted 12 doctoral students and 8 mentors in matching areas which were paired up from this conference meeting. Prof. Rama Chellappa also delivered a talk titled So You Want to be a Professor? Do’s and Don’ts. This session also included a poster session which provided extended opportunity for the assigned mentors to provide useful advice to the mentee in advancing their research work. The doctoral consortium poster presentations also attracted a Best Doctoral Consortium Presentation Award which was delivered to Zijing Zhao (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University).

The poster sessions (a) were held in conjunction with breaks and (b) in house lunches which provided additional opportunities for interaction among the participants; (c) Some mentors and mentees of Doctoral Consortium and (d) Zijing Zhao receiving Best Doctoral Consortium Presentation Award.
A biometrics quiz titled ‘Identity and Identification: Can You Predict?’ witnessed enthusiastic participation during the conference banquet and was organized by Ho Man Cheng, Pattabhi Ramaiah Nalla and Tsung-ying Wang (all from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University). The Best Paper Award for ISBA 2015 was presented to Daniel F. Smith, Arnold Wiliem and Brian C. Lovell (all from The University of Queensland) for their paper titled “Binary Watermarks: A Practical Method to Address Face Recognition Replay Attacks on Consumer Mobile Devices”. The Best Student Paper Award for ISBA 2015 was presented to Ravichandran Subramanian, Sudeep Sarkar, Miguel Labrador, Kristina Contino, Christopher Eggert (from University of South Florida), Omar Javed, Jiejie Zhu and Hui Cheng (from SRI International Princeton) for their paper titled "Orientation invariant gait matching algorithm based on the Kabsch alignment". The first edition of this conference also attracted a Special Contribution Award which was presented to Mei Ngan and Patrick Grother (National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, USA) for their contributions or paper “Tattoo Recognition Technology - Challenge (Tatt-C): An Open Tattoo Database for Developing Tattoo Recognition Research”. ISBA 2015 also recognized reviewers contributions and announced Best Reviewers Awards to Alex Stoianov (Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario), Hugo Proenca (University of Beira Interior, Portugal), Fernando Alonso-Fernandez (Halmstad University, Sweden), Vivek Kanhangad (Indian Institute of Technology Indore, India), Patrick Grother (NIST, USA), Kevin Bowyer (University of Notre Dame, USA), Arun Ross (Michigan State University, USA) and Maria Marsico (University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy).

ISBA 2015 attracted over 90 participants from over 10 countries. IEEE Biometrics Council also invited bids for ISBA 2016 and announced that ISBA 2016 will be held in Sendai, Japan. Prof. Aoki, the general-co chair for ISBA 2016 sent his invitation to all members of the community and a presentation regarding ISBA 2016 organization was made during the conference banquet.