IEE Trip Report: Iran 22-31 January 1999
Sharif Univ., Tehran; CSICC'98; Shiraz Univ., Shiraz.

1 Itinerary

- Friday 22.1.1999:
  Copenhagen–FaM–Iran, 10:00 (CPH) — 21:40 (THR)
- Tehran: 22-28.1.1999, Laleh Hotel
- Thursday 28.1.1999:
  Tehran–Shiraz, 6:00 (THR) — 7:10 (SHZ)
- Shiraz: 28–30.1.1999, Sharif Univ. Guest House
- Saturday 30.1.1999:
  Shiraz–Tehran, 19:10–20:15
- Sunday 31.1.1999:
  Tehran–FaM–Copenhagen, 2:55-9:40 (am)

2 Expenses

- IEE UK:
  - Visa:[1] 400 DKr.
  - Three visa photos[2] 90 DKr.
  - Taxi to/from Airport 22.1, resp. 31.1.1999 300 DKr. + 215 DKr.
  - International Air Travel, prepaid GBP 1985.50
  - Intl. Health Insurance, prepaid
- Iran, Misc. Institutions incl. CSICC'98:
  - All hotel and Guest House expenses:
    room, telephone, laundry
  - All meal expenses
  - All local car and air transport
  - Most museum etc. entry fees
- Own: NOT Claimed!
  - Misc. hotel tips: Restaurants, porters 30,000 Rials
  - Private: Postcards, stamps, museums 64,000 Rials
  - A hotel taxi to/from two Tehran museums 40,000 Rials

  1 US$ sometimes 6500, sometimes 7000 Rials

[1] Iranian Embassy in Denmark did and do not provide a receipt of expenses.
[2] Previously obtained photos were used. No receipt.

Notes: My Iranian hosts were:

- Most gracious: fetched me every day at hotel and brought me back; guided me on my days off (25.1 and 27-29.1) to bazaars, mosques, museums, tombs, Persepolis, etc., etc.;
- Well organsed: Each day new professors fetched and brought me, guided me, etc.; and had all the days that I was at their universities (23-24, 26, 30 Jan.) arranged group lunches whereby I met all leading staff and had pelnty of time for scientific discussions;
- Privately hospitable: I went to see several Professors at home.

3 Sharif University, Tehran, Iran: 23–24 January 1999

- Gave two days of lectures: Persian programme attached.
  8:30–10:00, 10:30–12:00, 14:00–15:30, 16:00–17:30
  Some 24 participants, mostly from Industries in Tehran and Isfahan.
  Formal Techniques in Software Engineering:
  From Domains via Requirements to Software
  I will be happy, upon demand, to provide copies of lectures notes and all OH foils. Basically the lectures covered chapters 2–4, 8, 10 and 12–13 of my lecture notes — which can be inspected on the web: `http://www.it.dtu.dk/~db/s99`

Interaction with participants was excellent: The half hour am and pm tea breaks provided an informal forum with much interaction, and many participants asked questions "in class"!

4 CSICC'98, Tehran, Iran: 26 January 1999

CSICC'98, the fourth such conference, was held early 1999 — offset a month, due to the Ramadan.

- My keynote speech opened the technical part of the well-attended and obviously well-organised fourth annual CSI (Computer Society of Iran) Computer Conference.
- A copy of the paper text provided is attached.
- The OH foil version is also attached.
- An approximately 400 people strong audience was present
- Some 5 or more questions were answered in the auditorium
- Some 40 minutes informal question answering took place during follow on tea break.

5 Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran: 28–30 January 1999

- Seminar for some 40 participants: 11:05–12:05 (noon):
  An Engineering Paradigm, Chapter 4 of my lecture notes.
- Intensive discussions with department of computer science staff took place, both during frequent guided tours around Shiraz and to/from Persepolis, as well as during a two hour pre-seminar morning session and a two hour post-seminar lunch session.

6 People Met — and Topics Discussed:

1. Prof. Ahram Sharafat, ITRC and Tarbiat Modarres Univ., Tehran
   Planning of a two week intensive Software Engineering course in co-op with UNU/IIST
2. Dr. Mohamad Reza BeikZadeh, ITRC, Tehran
3. Prof. Rasool Jalili, Sharif Univ., Tehran, and CSICC'98 General Chair
   Planning of a two week intensive Software Engineering course in co-op with UNU/IIST
4. Prof. Mohammad Ghodsi, Sharif Univ., Tehran
   Formal methods for the design of software for realtime, embedded and safety critical systems.
5. Hassan Mirian, Sharif Univ., Tehran
   Formal methods: Z and Refinement Calculi
6. Seyed Ghassem Miremadi, Sharif Univ., Tehran
7. Mehran S. Fallah, PhD student, Tarbiat Modarres Univ., Tehran
   Formal methods in cryptography and secure protocols.
8. Mohsen Rostami, ISC (Informatics Services Co.), Tehran
   Formal methods for banking software.
9. Mohsen Ghaderi, ISC, Tehran
10. A. Hassani, ISC, Tehran
11. Siamak Grakooei, IRISA (Intl. Systems Eng. & Automation Co.), Tehran
12. A. Baghaei, IRISA, Tehran
13. Bahran Farhang, IRISA, Tehran
14. K. Abbasi, ITRC (Iran Telecom Res.Ctr.), Tehran
15. Morteza Moradkhan, Iran High Council of Informatics
16. Behzad Meighani, Iran High Council of Informatics
17. Abdulhossein Pedari, GNCE (Power Plant, IT)
18. A.E. Bayati, Mgr., IT, Iran Air
19. Gh. Dastghaibyfard, Chm., Dept.Comp.Sci., Shiraz Univ.
    Planning of a two week intensive Software Engineering course in co-op with UNU/IIST
20. A. Towhidi, Dept.Comp.Sci., Shiraz Univ.
21. M.Z. Jahrami, Dept.Comp.Sci., Shiraz Univ.
22. Dr. Egbali, Dept.Comp.Sci., Shiraz Univ.
    Formal techniques in relation to pattern recognition using neural nets.

23. Dr. Kazem Memarzia, Shiraz Univ.
24. Ali Yalsavar, R&D Director, Iranian Telecomm.Mfg.Co., Shiraz
    Use of formal methods for telephone system billing sub-systems and the like.
25. Dr. M. Hakkak, Director, ITRC

7 General Observations

- Students at Sharif Univ. seem exceptionally gifted. I did not meet students at Shiraz Univ. other than those who who ("anonymously") attended my talk there.
- Staff at both Sharif and Shiraz Univs. we all very dedicated and many were "right on target" wrt. formal methods in software engineering.
- I also met very dedicated such professors from Isfahan Univ. of Technology and Isfahan Univ.
- Most academic staff had their PhDs from the UK or the US. Some had their PhDs from France or Sweden. Many have returned from good jobs in the UK, US or Sweden within the last years.
- There is a complete freeze, instituted as from this year, on academic travel — due to low oil prices.
- Internet speed is 16 or 32 K, rather low. But Internet access seems well spread.

8 Prospects for a UNU/IIST Engagement in Iran

- UNU/IIST is the UN University's International Institute for Software Technology, Macau (nr. Hong Kong, China).
- I mentioned UNU/IIST in all my three presentations in Iran, and in all my contacts with individual academics.
- I distributed 6 copies of UNU/IIST Report #97: Five Years of R&D at UNU/IIST (etc.)
- Prof. Ahmad Sharafat, the main initiator of my trip to Iran (also in 1991 and 1993), is definitely very much interested in UNU/IIST sponsoring a one week course in Isfahan and/or a two week course in Tehran, already in 1999. All other key persons expressed strong desire for such courses. By cooy of this report to Prof. Zhou Chao Chen I hereby hand over the main initiative wrt. main decisions and main negotiations for such a course to UNU/IIST — while offering my services.