Approved October 2, 2026

RAS AdCom Meeting: ICRA 2026

June 6th, 2026

Agenda: https://agd.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=19909

1. **Meeting Called to Order (Wensing)**

2. **Roll Call and Review of Consent Agenda Items (Wensing)**

   In attendance:

   Class of 2026: Gregory Dudek, Barbara Mazzolai, Marcia K. O'Malley, Tetsuya Ogata, Yu Sun, Michael Yu Wang

   Class of 2027: Arash Ajoudani, Eduardo Bayro-Corrochano, Jaydev Desai, Mariagrazia Dotoli, Dongheui Lee, Jee-Hwan Ryu

   Class of 2028: Antonio Bicchi, Peter Corke, Lydia Kavraki, Serena Ivaldi, Hyungpil Moon, Zhidong Wang

   Society Officers (voting): Nancy Amato, Kyujin Cho, Aude Billard, Patrick Wensing, Tony Maciejewski, Helen Wang

   Society Officers (non-voting): Karinne Ramirez Amaro, Chad Jenkins, Jing Xiao, Jim Ostrowski, Sabine Hauert, Katja Mombaur, Hong Zhang, Allison Okamura, Hugo Rodrigue, Jen Jen Chung, Frank Park

3. **Approval of Agenda, Including Consent Agenda and Standing Orders (Wensing)**

   Consent agenda including:
   Approval of Past Minutes: March 13th, 2026
   Update to Policies and Procedures
   Approval to Rename the "TC on Human-Robot Interaction and Coordination (HRIC)" to the "TC on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)"
   Motion: EiC Appointments for the IEEE Transactions on Soft Robotics (T-SRO)
   FAB Within Board Budget Reallocation
   STB->MSB Board Budget Reallocation

   Approved

4. **State of Society (Amato)**
   - Reviewed the four strategic-planning ad hoc committees

- Announced a new Ad Hoc Committee on Competitions, co-led by CAB and EAB, to coordinate competitions across boards and conferences. It will report by August so its recommendations can go into the 2027 budget.
- Exploring a new "Proceedings of RAS" journal: one issue per conference, replacing the conference proceedings. PAB will consider options and report at IROS 2026.

5. **ICRA 2026 Wrap-up (Vincze and Asfour)**
   - About 9,000 registrations and about 5,000 participants at Imperial Night.
   - The public Festival of Robots drew about 15,000 people.
   - See slides for lessons learned and operational feedback.

6. **ICRA 2030 Proposal Introduction and SC Evaluation (O'Malley) (in executive session)**
7. **ICRA 2030 Proposal – Hyderabad, India (Desai and Krovi) (in executive session)**
8. **ICRA 2030 Proposal – Bangkok, Thailand (Suthakorn) (in executive session)**
9. **ICRA 2030 – Evaluation Report and Vote (O'Malley) (in executive session)**

   AdCom voted between the two finalist bids: Bangkok, Thailand was selected to host ICRA 2030

10. **Break (Wensing)**

11. **ICRA Steering Committee Report – ICRA 2028 (O'Malley) (in executive session)**
    Motion:
    - To rescind Guadalajara, Mexico as the selected bid for ICRA 2028 based on organizational and safety concerns and the resulting impact on attendee experience, attendance and participation, as identified in the report of the ICRA Steering Committee (SC); and
    - To charge the ICRA SC with executing an expedited mechanism for bidding and evaluating bids for hosting ICRA 2028, with a preference for identifying options in Region 9 (Latin America and the Caribbean); and
    - To have the ICRA SC present a replacement conference location and organizing team to AdCom for an electronic confirmation vote no later than the September AdCom meeting.

      Motion Passed

12. **Lunch – Franz & Flora Restaurant (Wensing)**

13. **AdCom and ExCom Photo (Arnold)**

14. **Governance Updates (Wensing and Chung) (in executive session)**
    - The Bylaws updates AdCom approved on March 28th, 2025 are still pending with IEEE due to compliance concerns from IEEE.

- While updates were originally planned for summer 2026, consensus during discussion was to wait on further updates.

15. Financial Activities Board and Treasurer's Reports (Xiao and Maciejewski)

- 2025: operating deficit of about $976K, offset by about $3M in investment gains, for a net of about $2M.
- Through April 2026, year-to-date revenue exceeds expenses.

16. Publication Activities Board Report (Zhang)

- New journals launched (T-RL, T-SRO).
- PAB is looking for a replacement for Tamim Asfour as EiC of RAL.
- Working to document and standardize the journal-to-conference (J2C) transfer process.
- Discussion focused on considering Deputy EICs for large journals.

17. Technical Activities Board (Rodrigue)

- Highlighted Distributed Online Technical Activities (DOTs) and plans to expand global technical initiatives.
- Discussion focused on whether TEABxSAC should also include IAB. To be further considered.

18. Conference Activities Board (Ramirez Amaro)

- Highlighted:
  i. a conference organizers workshop held at ICRA 2026;
  ii. a NotebookLM-based assistant for conference organizers;
  iii. 85 conference websites archived on the RAS server;
  iv. a new conference portfolio dashboard.
- ICRA 2026 competitions: 18 proposed, 10 accepted, 9 held, 745 registered competitors.
- Discussion focused on whether RAS should engage with conference rankings (CORE), since the CASE steering committee has asked, and what AI-use guidance to recommend for RAS conferences.

19. Educational Activities Board (Jenkins)

- Spending is close to the anticipated budget.
- The Technical Education Program saw record participation under its new structure.
- The competitions team identified challenges and growth opportunities to feed into the new competitions ad hoc. Feedback goes to Rahul and his co-chair, and has to be finalized by August to affect 2027.
- Discussion focused on how competitions are organized and how information about them reaches conference attendees.

20. Industrial Activities Board (Ostrowski)

- Discussed key IAB ICRA 2026 activities
- The Industry Rewards Program has started, and participants value it.
- Regional Industry Showcase applications are open until June 15th, 2026. IAB asked for help promoting it.
- The IERA award will not continue because IFR is ending the collaboration. IAB will likely rebrand its Innovation Award as the main RAS innovation award, coordinating with the Entrepreneurship ad hoc.
- Discussion focused on concerns about giving sponsors keynote or talk slots ("pay to play") and labeling sponsors on the exhibition floor.

21. Member Activities Board (Mombaur)

- ICRA 2026 member events went well (SAC Lunch with Leaders, the TEABxSAC Dinner and the SAC Social Hour; the Young Professionals luncheon;
- Community Building Day; WIE events)
- WIE awards had high demand, including the new WIE Best Dissertation Award.
- Chapter grants are in high demand. Startup grants are paused to clear a backlog, and the second initiative-grants call drew 94 applications.
- Gathered AdCom feedback, including through Slido polls, on RAS chapter strategy and on the regional strategy.

22. Media Services Board (Hauert)

- Finalizing professional conference promotion with IEEE conferences staff: email outreach, online ads, social media, and on-site support.
- New science communication team, including a podcast.
- RAS communications meetings will be held for one hour every two months.
- Social channels are growing quickly, with about 30K LinkedIn followers. MSB has started on Bilibili.
- Discussed Ambassador program ideas.
- Website: moving to editing by boards and committees, with access coming soon.

23. Science and Technology Watch Board (Okamura)

- Literature assessments:
    i. A Learning from Demonstration case study, with a RAM paper appearing in June 2026;
    ii. a Humanoids review paper and video.
- The STB panel at ICRA 2026, "Surviving the Paper Deluge," was well received.
- Policy analysis launched a "Robotics Roadmaps from Around the World" news series.
- STB aims to produce tools and insights other boards and members can use, and asked how best to work with the boards.
- Discussion focused on defining quality to inform publications and conferences.

24. Awards Committee (Park)

- Awards are on track.

25. Sustainability and Climate Change Committee (Billard)

- The first grants call drew 72 applications from 32 countries, and 4 grants were funded (about $15K). The second call drew 67 applications from 18 countries, and 7 were funded (about $30K).
- Third call: applications due end of June 2026, with notification by August 31st, 2026.
- A conference carbon-footprint calculator was developed for the CAB toolbox.

26. Break (Wensing)

27. Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Stressed Publication Model (Okamura and Zhang)

- Short-term recommendations:
  i. embrace AI use in research production and peer review;
  ii. implement automated reviewer matching immediately;
  iii. implement an AI paper-validation system (plagiarism, citation validation, figure forensics);
  iv. require only simple AI-use disclosure, since authors remain responsible for their content.
- Longer-term recommendations:
  i. an AI review system for robotics submissions;
  ii. experimental verification of results;
  iii. equal access to paper-improvement tools across regions;
  iv. mandatory review assignments for authors, in proportion to their submissions.

28. Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Conference Strategy (O'Malley and Ramirez Amaro)

- Recommendations on quality metrics: standard reporting templates, and potentially auditing conferences against expectations tied to their level of sponsorship.
- Discussion on balancing conferences' experiential and technical value, including a stricter review process to improve technical quality.

29. Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (RAS-E2) (Cho and Ostrowski)

- Recommendations:
  i. create high-profile innovation and entrepreneurship award(s) to replace the IERA award;
  ii. reach startups at different stages, from pre-seed to established;
  iii. dedicate industry day(s) at major conferences, starting with IROS 2026 and ICRA 2027.

30. Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Regional Strategy (Jenkins and Mombaur)

- Ideas under consideration:
    i. local partnerships with chapters and regional robotics associations;
    ii. financial support such as special registration rates;
    iii. new regional conferences;
    iv. larger international competitions.
- Discussion focused on how to integrate Global South researchers into the community and reach them.

31. New Business (Wensing)

32. Next In-Person AdCom Meeting: 2 October 2026, Pittsburgh (PA), USA (IROS) (Wensing)

33. Meeting Adjourned (Wensing)