

Post-conference report of International Travel Award (ITA)

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I received the International Travel Award from the Office of International Programs to participate in the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation 2011 (ICRA 2011) in Shanghai, China, during May 9-13. ICRA 2011 is the most established conference in robotics; more than 2000 papers are submitted and only 978 papers are accepted. More than 2000 researchers from all parts the world participated in this conference, and it was a marvelous opportunity to represent myself, our research group, and Drexel University to many other researchers.

I participated in ICRA 2011 to present our research in the oral session. Our research is to develop a micro- or nanoscale cellular robot using microorganisms from nature to perform a variety of microscale tasks such as drug delivery. Last year, ICRA launched some programs to encourage many other researchers to be involved in micro-robotics, a newly emerging field. At ICRA 2011, workshops, competitions and technical sessions in micro-robotics were prepared, and a lot of world-renowned researchers were invited and discussed about micro-robotics. I was able to have the opportunity to meet other researchers and develop good relationships, which will help my research in the future. The program in ICRA 2011 included not only micro-robotics but also many other robotics-related fields such as navigation, haptics, medical robotics, space robotics and so on. Since I was interested in other robotic fields, I was excited to have a chance to see the cutting-edge technologies and meet some famous researchers in robotics.

ICRA 2011 was held in the Shanghai International Convention Center, which is about five minutes away from the Oriental Pearl Tower whose height is 468 meters (1,535 ft). This tower has observatories in three levels, and I visited the Sightseeing Floor at 263 meters (863 ft) where a glass floor is installed (see picture). At only one hour, the visit to Oriental Pearl Tower was short, but it was enough time for me to obtain a strong impression.

Thanks to the review committees of International Travel Award, enabling me to have an invaluable experience at the conference in Shanghai, China, and I am sure that this visit has improved my research capability.

