

38th Conference closed session: Evaluation survey results

21 November 2016

This report summarises satisfaction survey results for the 38th Conference.

An evaluation survey of participants of the closed session has been taken at every conference since the 35th Conference in 2013. The survey has consistently used the same questions to measure participants' satisfaction. The key measures focus upon whether the closed session is worthwhile ('a good use of time'), engaging ('an interesting topic for discussion') and of practical application ('learned something I could use back in my office').

The results of the survey for the 38th Conference are therefore able to be compared with the results of the 35th, 36th and 37th Conference surveys.

38th Conference survey results

Responses

46 participants completed the survey. Of the 46 responses 40 (87%) were from Europe, 4 (9%) were from Asia, 2 (2%) were from Oceania and 2 (2%) were from North America.

Unfortunately no responses were received from Africa, Middle East and South America. When the next survey is run consideration should be given to translating it into French and Spanish to increase the response rate. However, it might be noted that there was a 2% increase in the number of responses compared to the 37th Conference survey which had been translated into French.

Satisfaction levels

Participants were asked their views on the closed session to determine satisfaction levels.

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No view
The 2016 Closed session was a good use of my time	28 (62%)	15 (33%)	-	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
Artificial intelligence & robotics was an interesting topic for discussion	35 (76%)	9 (19.5%)	-	1 (2%)	1 (2%)
I learned something in the artificial intelligence & robotics session that I have been able to use on my return to the office	19 (41%)	20 (43%)	-	4 (9%)	3 (6%)
Encryption was an interesting topic for discussion	26 (56%)	16 (35%)	-	3 (6%)	1 (2%)
I learned something in the "Encryption" session that I have been able to use on my return to the office	12 (26%)	23 (50%)	-	7 (15%)	4 (9%)

Percentages are rounded off.

Satisfaction levels compared to previous closed sessions

For 4 years in a row, Conference participants continue to rank attendance at the closed session as highly worthwhile: consistently ranging between 90-95% which is encouraging.

Do you agree with this statement?	38 th Conference AI & robotics + Encryption	37 th Conference Genetics + Intelligence oversight	36 th Conference Internet of things	35 th Conference Apps
The closed session was a good use of my time	95.5% agreed	95% agreed	90% agreed	95% agreed

**Agreed = strongly agree and agree*

In terms of finding the topic engaging, Robotics and AI rated very highly – level with the previously most popular topic, the application of society in 2013.

The encryption topic also rated reasonable well, level with most topics for the last 4 years which have ranged between 90-91%.

A wider gap emerged in terms of the practical application of the two topics discussed in depth in 2016, with Robotics and AI scoring an 86% rating while encryption was on 76%. However, both topics rated better than did last year's topics. It needs also to be borne in mind that only 90 minutes of the closed session was devoted to the encryption topic.

Do you agree with this statement?	38 th Conference		37 th Conference		36 th Conference Internet of things	35 th Conference Apps
	AI & robotics	Encryption	Genetics	Intelligence oversight		
The discussion topic was interesting	96 % agreed	91% agreed	90% agreed	92% agreed	90% agreed	96% agreed
I learnt something from the discussion topic that I have been able to use on my return to the office	85% agreed	76% agreed	74% agreed	71% agreed	85% agreed	86% agreed

**Agreed = strongly agree and agree*

General comments

Participants were invited to offer comments on the 38th Conference closed session. Below is a selection of comments received:

"Day one provided me with a fantastic insight into AI and robotics and was really useful and inspirational for further study".

"I would propose for future int. conferences to limit much more the time spent on 'internal' issues and dedicate more time to debate on the thematic issues. I think the whole morning part of the 18th Oct. - apart from the presentation of the UN Spec. Rapporteur on privacy - was really not a good use of our time. The reports and resolutions could have been dealt with via email".

"Especially the Robotics topic was presented in an extremely interesting way by the presenters".

"It was excellent and I think John Edwards was a very facilitator chair. I also thought it appropriate to have the UN SRP there but it would have been good to hear a little more from him".

“The subject topics were useful. The table arrangements for the 2nd day were uncomfortable”.

“This was a highly relevant and interesting topic”.

“The Closed Session was a great success especially on illustrating the latest development in technology and the challenges brought to the data privacy protection arena. The discussion panel also managed to steer the discussion towards the subject matter”.

“As discussed during the meeting, we would support a procedure which would give more time to assess and discuss new applications to the closed session, as well as the procedure for the adoption of resolutions”.

“It would have been nice with a participant list. And it was strange to have cameras filming the audience continuously (especially without informing about the purpose of the filming)”.

Attendance at the 38th Conference

65 member authorities and 16 observers attended the Conference.

Of the 65 members 45 (69.2%) were from Europe, 9 (13.8%) were from Americas, 4 (8.6%) were from Asia and 3 (4.6%) were from Oceania.

Of the 16 observers 8 (50%) were international organisations and 8 (50%) were public entities from particular countries.

38th Conference: Overall evaluation (survey conducted by the host CNDP, Morocco)

CNDP Morocco as host of the 38th Conference conducted an overall evaluation of the Conference. Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction from 1 – 5 (1 being unsatisfactory and 5 being very good). 81 participants completed the survey.

Question	1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Unsatisfactory (1) ←</i>		<i>→ (5) Very good</i>		
The general organisation of the conference	2%	-	12%	28%	57%
The conference website	2%	2%	23%	35%	32%
The registration process	5%	7%	15%	32%	41%
The relevance of the conference contents	1%	2%	14%	46%	36%
The experts' contribution	1%	-	12%	40%	46%
The official documents distributed	1%	4%	26%	37%	30%
The side events program and content	2%	1%	6%	43%	40%
The social event	1%	5%	6%	22%	48%
The shuttle service	1%	6%	6%	31%	27%
The airport welcome and formalities	6%	1%	9%	18%	27%
General impression of your stay in Morocco	1%	1%	2%	27%	48%

Summary:

- Overall satisfaction was very high (85% rated general organisation as good or very good)
- However, a degree of dissatisfaction was expressed by some participants over the registration process.