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Headline: Int'l Conference on Information and Knowledge Management held in Singapore

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SINGAPORE, Nov. 7 (Xinhua) -- The 2017 International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM) formally opened here on Tuesday under the theme "Smart Cities, Smart Nations."

CIKM is a premier forum for research on topics of information retrieval, data management and knowledge management. This is the first time for the conference to be held in Singapore.

The conference highlights technologies and insights that materialize the "Smart Cities, Smart Nations" vision shared by many urban areas around the world, and serves to bring together international and Singapore technology providers and seekers to explore technology and business collaboration opportunities through open innovation, according to the organizers.

Authors from around the world submitted papers, with China contributing almost 1,400 authors as the largest source of paper authors, said Marianne Winslett with the University of Illinois, one of the organizers.

Over 730 attendees have registered for the conference, making the conference the biggest CIKM ever held outside the United States, she said.

Meanwhile, the attendees to the conference are from over 40 countries and areas, with China ranking the first with over 160 attendees.

Lim Ee Peng, professor at Singapore Management University and co-general chair of CIKM 2017, told Xinhua that in recent years, the fast growth of China's IT industry and academic research in big data, machine learning, and Artificial Intelligence has led to a surge of interest in top conferences focusing on these research areas.

"It is therefore not surprising that CIKM, a leading conference in these areas, attracted a large group of Chinese participants," he said.