

Preface

The Pacific Rim International Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (PRICAI) are biennial international events. The PRICAI series aims at stimulating research by promoting exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas among different branches of Artificial Intelligence. It also provides a common forum for researchers and practitioners in various fields of AI to exchange new ideas and share their experience.

This volume contains the proceedings of the 7th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (PRICAI 2002) held in Tokyo, Japan. PRICAI 2002 received 161 submissions from 25 countries. From these, 57 papers (35%) were accepted for presentation and are included in this volume. Over 30 papers were accepted for poster presentations, and a 1-page abstract for each poster is included in this volume. All submitted papers were refereed by two or more reviewers selected by the Program Committee members. The reviewers' comments were carefully examined and discussed by the members of the Program Committee to ensure fairness and consistency in the selection process.

The papers in this volume give an indication of new trends in Artificial Intelligence. The topics covered include AI Foundations, Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, Constraint Satisfaction, Machine Learning, Knowledge Acquisition and Management, Agents and Their Applications, Neural Networks, Document Analysis and Categorization, Internet/Web Intelligence, Multimedia and Emotion, Intelligent Robots, and Machine Perception.

The technical program comprised two days of workshops and tutorials, followed by paper sessions, invited talks, and special sessions. The invited speakers, Prof. Norman Foo (Univ. New South Wales), Prof. Eduard Hovy (USC/ISI), Prof. Micheal Pazzani (UC Irvine/Adaptiveinfo), Dr. Thomas Rist (DFKI), and Prof. Ryohei Nakatsu (ATR/Kwansei-Gakuin Univ.), are internationally distinguished researchers. We thank them for also preparing papers on their talks. These papers are included in these proceedings.

The success of a conference depends on support and cooperation from many individuals and organizations; PRICAI 2002 was no exception. The PRICAI 2002 conference was sponsored by the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI), in cooperation with 12 other academic institutes. Support from the National Institute of Informatics (NII), Japan, is also gratefully acknowledged.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors, Program Committee members, reviewers and fellow members of the Conference Committee for their time and effort spent on making PRICAI 2002 a successful and enjoyable conference. Thanks also go to Maurice Pagnucco for coordinating workshops and organizing a special session on workshop summaries, and to Koichi Hori for coordinating tutorials. We also thank the PRICAI steering committee for giving us an opportunity to organize the program of PRICAI 2002.

Finally, we thank Springer-Verlag and its Computer Science Editor, Alfred Hofmann, Erika Siebert-Cole, and Anna Kramer, for efficient assistance in publishing these proceedings of PRICAI 2002 as a volume in its Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence series. Also, Junichiro Mori of the University of Tokyo helped us in preparing the files for this volume.

August 2002

Mitsuru Ishizuka
Abdul Sattar

Organization

PRICAI 2002 was organized by the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI), and held at the National Center of Science in Tokyo, Japan, August 18–22, 2002. Six workshops also took place jointly with the main PRICAI conference.

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