

Preface

This volume contains the papers presented at the 14th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (PRICAI 2016) held during August 22–26, 2016, in Phuket, Thailand.

PRICAI is a biennial conference inaugurated in Tokyo in 1990. It provides a common forum for researchers and practitioners in various branches of artificial intelligence (AI) to exchange new ideas and share experience and expertise. Over the past 26 years the conference has grown, both in participation and scope, to be a premier international AI event for all major Pacific Rim nations as well as countries from further afield. This year marked the first time that the conference was held in Thailand. In addition to the main track, PRICAI 2016 featured a special track on “Smart Modelling and Simulation.”

This year, we received 161 high-quality submissions from 25 countries to both the main and special tracks. From these, 53 papers (33 %) were accepted as regular papers, with a further 15 accepted as short papers. Each submitted paper was considered by the Program Committee members and external reviewers, and evaluated against criteria such as relevance, significance, technical soundness, novelty, and clarity. Every paper received at least three reviews, and in some cases up to four, supplemented by rigorous discussion among the reviewers. Finally, the program co-chairs read the reviews and discussion among reviewers, and made the final decision to ensure fairness and consistency in the paper selection.

The technical program began with two days of workshops and tutorials, followed by the main conference program. The workshops included the Pacific Rim Knowledge Acquisition Workshop (PKAW), co-chaired by Hayato Ohwada (Tokyo University of Science, Japan) and Kenichi Yoshida (University of Tsukuba, Japan), which has long enjoyed a successful co-location with PRICAI. Authors of short papers presented their results during poster sessions, but were also given the opportunity to present shortened talks to introduce their work. As in previous years, participants at PRICAI were also able to attend the co-located 19th International Conference on Principles and Practice of Multi-Agent Systems (PRIMA 2016). We were honored to have three outstanding keynote speakers, whose contributions have crossed discipline boundaries: Phan Minh Dung (Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand), Sheng-Chuan Wu (Franz Inc., USA), and Zhi-Hua Zhou (Nanjing University, China). We are grateful to them for sharing their insights on their latest research with us.

It would not have been possible to organize the technical program without the considerable help of various people who committed their time and effort toward making PRICAI 2016 a success. We would like to thank the Program Committee members and external reviewers for their engagements in providing rigorous and timely reviews. It is because of them that the quality of the papers in this volume is maintained at a high level.

We wish to express our gratitude to the General Co-chairs, Dickson Lukose (MIMOS Berhad, Malaysia) and Thanaruk Theeramunkong (Thammasat University, Thailand), for their continued support and guidance. We are also thankful to the Tutorial Co-chairs, Sankalp Khanna (CSIRO, Australia), Manabu Okumura (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan) and Kritsada Sriphaew (Rangsit University, Thailand), for selecting the fruitful tutorials, and the Workshop Co-chairs, Masayuki Numao (Osaka University, Japan), Boonserm Kijsirikul (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand), and Sanparith Marukatat (NECTEC, Thailand), for coordinating the attractive workshops.

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Last but not least, we also want to thank all authors and all conference participants for their contribution and support. We hope all participants took this opportunity to share and exchange ideas and thoughts with one another and enjoyed PRICAI 2016.

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