



Message from the President:

“VISIBILITY OF IFSA”

In this issue:	
Message from the President	1
IFSA Council Members	2
Report on IFSA2003	4
Call for Papers	7

Hi, everybody. It is already December, 2003 and the year 2004 is coming. Herewith I like to send my warm and heartfelt greetings to you all and, further, wish you a very happy and successful New Year.

Since the start of my term as IFSA President last July, one subject has been haunting me all along. It was among the agenda items in the Council meeting at Istanbul but so novel that I think it was never discussed in the previous council meetings. Proposed by one of the council members of Laszlo's team, the subject was on how to enhance more "visibility" of IFSA in the future. I liked the subject very much and wanted to talk about it. Because of many other imminent and seemingly important matters to handle, however, the issue on visibility was given a minimum time for discussion at the meeting. I had appreciated the members for their comments and suggestions, which I think are quite noteworthy, but I was sorry for not being able to derive any workable plans for visibility together.

There are many organizations in the world with research activities similar to ours. Each organization tries to survive by all means, eagerly calling for participation in its group as members. In this sense, visibility should be treated as vital for any institute to be successful and essential for its existence outstandingly. IFSA boasts a relatively long history, but has been experiencing a stagnant growth as long as its size of membership is concerned. In my opinion, the visibility issue cannot be lightly handled for IFSA but should be an item for discussion and for which a lot of efforts must be put to get ideas. Thus, any constructive suggestions and ideas will be valuable in this regard if they help enhancing the visibility of IFSA.

In my limited perception, visibility is a concept that is abstract, as opposed to concrete, and rather unfamiliar. Nevertheless, I know also that the issue of how to enhance IFSA visibility is one of my major homework to do. So I have taken the position that I dare say practical, though naive, suggestions which have come to my mind so far. I simply assert that IFSA must have something to show now or something to proclaim as her vision for future if IFSA wants to be visible. The following is the list of 9 suggestions most of which I mentioned at the last council meeting but rephrased and reinforced.

1. Restructuring IFSA in order to better fit for incorporation. IFSA constitution and by-laws can be revised. When appropriate, fusion of IFSA and the registered IFSA in Finland (or any other alternative) is pursued.
2. Active promotion of IFSA-sponsored events including IFSA Symposium on a particular technical theme, and IFSA e-workshop administered by IFSA SIG group.
3. Expansion of IFSA Institutional membership.
4. Enhancement of IFSA publicity by strengthening IFSA Homepage, publishing IFSA- Newsletter, and strengthening FSS bulletin section.
5. Establishment of Student Award System and other supporting events.
6. Establishment of IFSA Fellow Lecture Program (in reference to the Distinguished Lecture Program of IEEE R&A Society.)

7. Publication of new IFSA Journals.
8. Publication of World Survey on FUZZY on regular basis (as suggested by Prof. L. Zadeh)
9. Establishment of a comfortable IFSA Operation Fund (e.g. US\$1M)

Regarding the above items, your comments and feedback would be more than welcomed of course. If supported, I am going to do my best to have these items implemented during my tenure as President with helps and supports from the IFSA officers and other council members.

IFSA Council Members

Honorary President

Lotfi A. Zadeh
Computer Science Division, University of California

Officers

Z. Zenn Bien, *President*
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)

Witold Pedrycz, *President-Elect*
Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering
University of Alberta

Janusz Kacprzyk, *Treasurer*
Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences

Kaoru Hirota, *Secretary*
Dept. of Computational Intelligence and Systems Science
Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering
Tokyo Institute of Technology

Thomas A. Sudkamp, *Vice-President*
Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering
Wright State University

Takeshi Furuhashi, *Vice-President*
Center for Information Technologies and Networks
Mie University

Fernando Gomide, *Vice-President*
State University of Campinas, Unicamp-FEEC-DCA

Kyung Chan Min, *Vice-President*
Dept. of Mathematics
Yonsei University

Laszlo T. Koczy, *Past President*
Dept. of Telecommunication and Media Informatics
Budapest University of Technology and Economics

Institutional Members

SOFT (Japan Society for Fuzzy Theory and Intelligent Informatics)

Toshio Fukuda

Center for Cooperative Research in Advanced Science & Technology, Nagoya University

CFSAT (Chinese Fuzzy Systems Association T)

Chain-Teng Lin

Dept. of Electrical and Control Engineering, National Chiao-Tung University

KFIS (Korea Fuzzy Logic and Intelligent Systems Society)

Frank Chung-Hoon Rhee

School of Electrical Engineering And Computer Science, Hanyang University

EUSFLAT (European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology)

Luis Magdalena

ETS Ingenieros de Telecomunicacion, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid

NAFIPS (North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society)

Michael R. Berthold

Konstanz University

SBA (Brazilian Society of Automatics)

Sandra Sandri

LAC/INPE, Cx Postal 515, 12201-970 S.J. Campos S.P., Brazil

VFSS (Fuzzy Systems Society, Vietnam)

Nguyen Hoang Phuong

Institute of Information Technology, National Center for Natural Science and Technology

SIGEF(Internat. Assoc. for Fuzzy Set Manage. and Econom.)

Jaime Gil Aluja

Facultat de Ciències Econòmiques i Empresariales, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

FMSAC (Fuzzy Mathematics and Systems Association of China)

Ying-Ming Liu

President's Office, Sichuan University

HFA (Hungarian Fuzzy Association)

Imre J. Rudas

Budapest Polytechnic

FIRST(Fuzzy systems and Intelligent technologies Research Society of Thailand)

Pratit Santiprabhob

Faculty of Science and Technology, Assumption University

NSAIS (North European Society of Adaptive and Intelligent Systems)

Jorma K. Mattila

Dept. of Information Technology, Laboratory of Applied Mathematics, Lappeenranta University of Technology

SCI (Soft Computational Intelligence Society)

Okyay Kaynak

Dept. of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Bogazici University

Report on
IFSA 2003
Tenth International Fuzzy Systems Association World Congress
June 29-July 2, 2003 Istanbul, TURKEY

The Tenth International Fuzzy Systems Association World Congress was held in Istanbul, Turkey, during June 29-July 2 2003. Despite the adverse effects of the SARS epidemic, the conference was well attended and successfully met its objectives. It was preceded by the Joint 13th International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks and 10th International Conference on Neural Information Processing, ICANN/ICONIP 2003, that took place in the same venue during June 26-29, 2003, with the day of tutorials (June 29) overlapping. This helped us to reach a greater audience and attracted more attention. In the following, some details are given about the conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank IFSA Council for entrusting the organization of their prestigious World Congress on us at Bogazici University and the members of the organization Committee for the time and the effort they invested in IFSA 2004.

Prof. Dr. Okyay Kaynak
General Chair

DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE

Organized by:

Bogaziçi University
Soft Computational Intelligence Society, Turkey

In Technical Co-operation with:

World Federation on Soft Computing (WFSC)

Honorary Chair:

Lotfi A. Zadeh (UC Berkeley, USA)

Honorary Co-Chairs:

Michio Sugeno (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan)
I. Burhan Türksen (University of Toronto, Canada)

General Chair:

Okyay Kaynak (Bogaziçi University)

Program Co-chairs:

T. Bilgiç (UnivBogaziçi University)
D. De Baets (Ghent University)

Program Committee

Mathematical Areas

A1 Foundations: J. Fodor (Hungary)
A2 Pure Mathematics: S. Gottwald (Germany)
A3 Uncertainty Modelling: G. De Cooman (Belgium)

Methodological Areas

A4 Decision Making: M. Grabisch (France)
A5 Data Analysis and Data Mining: R. Kruse (Germany)
A6 Pattern Recognition and Image Processing: R. Krishnapuram (India)

Application Areas

A7 Control and Robotics: T. Fukuda (Japan)
A8 Information Systems: G. Chen (China)
A9 Business, Finance and Management: U. Kaymak (Netherlands)

Cross-Disciplinary Areas

A10 Soft Computing: H. Takagi (Japan)
A11 Artificial Intelligence: L. Godo (Spain)
A12 Operations Research: K. Demirli (Canada)

Details:

IFSA 2003 attracted 318 papers of which 220 were scheduled for presentation. 133 papers were presented as short papers whereas the remaining 87 papers were presented as long papers.. The Proceedings of the long papers appeared from Springer in the Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence series (LNAI 2715) and the proceedings of the short papers appeared from Boğaziçi University Press.

Dividing the topics into 12 areas and assigning well known area chairs not only increased the chance of attracting good quality papers but also made the arduous job of refereeing a lot smoother.

The sessions were usually well attended. Particularly the sessions of Mathematical Areas were very well attended whereas there has been some no-shows in other sessions of varying degrees. The SARS epidemic forbade many colleagues from Far East unable to attend. We should note that another factor that contributed to no-shows probably has been the fact that the long proceedings appearing as a volume in LNAI which is covered by SCI. Although we did not include any papers for which no author has registered, it could be that some colleagues found it adequate to pay one registration fee to get their paper appear in the proceedings and not to attend the congress at all.

DETAILS OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

The scientific program of the conference included

- A Keynote Address
- Two Plenary talks
- Four semi-plenary talks

Keynote Address:

L. A. Zadeh, Computing with Words

Plenary Talks:

I. B. Türksen, Philosophical Grounding of Fuzzy Theory
D. Dubois, Fuzzy sets and systems research: current trends and prospects

Semi-Plenary Talks:

J. Fodor, Binary Operations in Fuzzy Set Theory: Recent Advances (cancelled due to a medical operation J. Fodor had just before the congress).
M. Roubens, Multiple Criteria Choice, Ranking and Sorting in the Presence of Ordinal Data and Interactive Points of View
H. Tanaka, Dual Interval Model and its Application to Decision Making
R. Krishnapuram, Automatic Taxonomy Generation: Issues and Possibilities

Special Session Papers:

The technical program of the conference included 7 special sessions listed below.

A01X1: Foundations - Cardinality, Quantification and Aggregation on Fuzzy Sets and Fuzzy Bags: Theory and Applications - special session
A04X2: Decision Making - Fuzzy measures and integrals - special session
A05X1: Data Analysis and Data Mining - Rough sets and Granular Computing - special session
A06X1: Pattern Recognition and Image Processing - Soft Computing in Image Processing - special session.
A08X1: Information Systems - Fuzzy Database Technology - special session
A10X2: Soft Computing in Software Engineering - long papers - special session
A11X1: Artificial Intelligence - Similarity for comparing fuzzy sets - special session

Regular Sessions:

42 regular sessions were held.

Countries of Origin:

The breakdown of the papers according to the country of origin of the corresponding author is as follows:

Algeria	1	Hungary	1	Russia	3
Australia	3	India	2	Slovakia	3
Austria	3	Iran	14	Slovenia	1
Belgium	9	Israel	1	South Korea	3
Brazil	3	Italy	14	Spain	19
Bulgaria	1	Japan	33	Sweden	2
Canada	6	Jordan	3	Taiwan	5
China	6	Malaysia	4	The Netherlands	1
Czech Republic	8	Mexico	1	Tunisia	3
Denmark	1	P.R.China	7	Turkey	15
Finland	9	Poland	7	UK	4
France	15	Portugal	1	Ukraine	1
Germany	14	Republic of Korea	9	USA	13
Greece	4	Romania	1	Vietnam	1
		Grand Total	255		

DETAILS OF THE SOCIAL PROGRAM

Conference Hotel:

The technical program of conference took place in Istanbul Hilton, in the hearth of city.

Welcome Reception:

A welcome cocktail-buffet was held on the evening of Monday, July 3th at the campus of Bogaziçi University. All participants were invited free of charge.

Conference Dinner:

The conference dinner took place on the evening of Tuesday, July 4, 2000, 19:00-23:30, as a dinner cruise on the Bosphorus.

Lunches:

The registration package that the participants received contained tickets for lunch at Istanbul Hotel. By including lunch in the registration fee, a good interaction was ensured between the participants as well getting the conference rooms free of charge.

Conference tours:

A secondary goal of the conference, in addition to that of contributing and influencing the directions of research in fuzzy systems, was to try to promote long lasting friendship among the participants. With this goal in mind some city tours were organized.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the success of this conference:

Bogaziçi University Foundation

The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)

CALL FOR PAPERS

8th FUZZY DAYS 2004

International Conference on Computational Intelligence
University of Dortmund, Sept. 29 - Oct. 01, 2004
<http://fuzzydays.cs.uni-dortmund.de/>

SCIS & ISIS 2004

Joint 2nd International Conference on Soft Computing and Intelligent Systems and 5th International Symposium on Advanced Intelligent Systems
Keio University, Yokohama, Japan, September 21-24, 2004
<http://scis2004.t-kougei.ac.jp/>

FUZZINESS IN FINLAND '04 (FiF '04)

International Conference on Soft Computing Helsinki, Finland & Gulf of Finland & Tallinn, Estonia
May 25-26, 2004
http://honeybee.helsinki.fi/users/niskanen/fif04_files/slide0001.htm