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In this issue, we offer a report on the recently created European Centre for Soft Computing. This research institution will have a great impact on the development of the soft computing area. We also present the information on the forthcoming IFSA 2007 World Congress to be held in Cancun, Mexico in June of 2007. Finally, information on the International Seminar of Computational Intelligence 2006 is also presented.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOFT COMPUTING

Past January 17th took place the public presentation of the Foundation for the Advancement of Soft Computing. The objective of this Foundation is to launch and maintain a research and development centre, the European Centre for Soft Computing (ECSC), which was also presented. The purpose of this new structure is to serve as a world-class institution focused on basic research and applications in the area of Soft Computing. The activities of the Foundation and the Centre are focused not only on research, but also on education, promotion and dissemination of Soft Computing.

The Foundation (as well as the Centre) is located in Mieres (Asturias, Spain) and has been promoted by CajAstur (Asturias Savings Bank) with the financial support of CajAstur, the Government of the Principality of Asturias, and the Department of Industry of Spain.

The activities of the ECSC are guided by a Scientific Committee composed of:

Senén Barro, Christer Carlsson, María Ángeles Gil (Secretary), Janusz Kacpryk, Rudolf Kruse, Ebrahim Mamdani, Henri Prade, Gianguido G. Rizzotto, Enric Trillas (Vice chairman) and Lotfi A. Zadeh (Chairman).

The ceremony of presentation was chaired by the President of the Principality of Asturias, Mr. Vicente Álvarez Areces, who was assisted by the President of CajAstur, Mr. Manuel Menéndez, the President of the University of Oviedo, Professor Juan Vázquez, the representative of the Trades Union, the Chairman and the ViceChairman of the Scientific Committee, Professors Lotfi Zadeh and Enric Trillas, and the Director General of the European Centre for Soft Computing, Professor Luis Magdalena.

Presentation ceremony, January 17th.

On the occasion of this public presentation, Professor Lotfi A. Zadeh offered the talk: "Information Technology and its impact on Science, Culture and Society". In addition, a meeting of the Scientific Committee was held at CajAstur premises.

The scientific structure of the Centre is based on a number of research labs composed of a Principal Researcher, an Associate Researcher, as well as Postdoc and Graduate Student positions. In addition, some Emeritus Researchers are appointed. The first group of researchers has joined the Centre in April, and are two Principal researchers (Oscar Cordon, proceeding from the University of Granada in Spain, and Christian Borgelt, proceeding from Otto-von-Guericke-University of Magdeburg in Germany), the Emeritus researcher Claudio Moraga (proceeding from Dortmund University in Germany), and the Associate researcher Sergio Damas. In addition, some important visitors as Piero Bonissone or Michio Sugeno has been received.

In April 27th took place a new meeting of the Scientific Committee, being held for the first time at the premises of the Centre in Mieres. During that meeting the action plan for the near future, or the research lines of the centre were considered. There was also the opportunity for the committee to join the researchers of the centre and analyse the profile of future members of the team. As a result, some calls for Postdoc and Graduate Student positions will be launched.

Meeting of the Scientific Committee, April 27th.

Additional information on the activities of the Foundation will be available in the future through its website www.fasc.es, now under construction.

IFSA 2007 WORLD CONGRESS
Cancun, Mexico, June 18-21, 2007
www.hafsamx.org/ifsa2007

Main theme of the Congress:

Theory and Applications of Fuzzy Logic and Soft Computing

The IFSA 2007 World Congress will consist of papers describing research work that deals with Computational Intelligence (CI) methodologies for the development of hybrid intelligent systems. CI methodologies at the moment include (at least) Fuzzy Logic, Neural Networks, Genetic Algorithms, Intelligent Agents, and Chaos Theory. The use of intelligent techniques, like neural networks, fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms, for real-world problems is now widely accepted. However, still the performance of any of these techniques can be improved, in many situations, by using them in conjunction with other techniques. For example, genetic algorithms can be used to optimize the design of a neural network for time series prediction, or fuzzy logic can be used to combine the information from expert neural modules, just to mention two cases. Also, mathematical methods, like the ones from Chaos and Fractal Theory, can be used in conjunction with intelligent techniques to improve the performance of hybrid systems for real-world

applications. The international conference will consist of papers addressing these hybrid approaches and similar ones, either theoretically or for real-world applications. Also, distinguished internationally recognized invited speakers will give lectures on the main areas of CI. The conference is intended primarily for researchers and graduate students working on these research areas

Call for Papers:

1 Successful new applications to real-world problems of CI techniques that are found to achieve better results than conventional techniques. In this case, special attention should be given to the metrics used to compare CI techniques with conventional ones.
2 Developments of innovative hybrid methods combining CI techniques and conventional techniques. In this case, the problems to be considered in these papers may not be as complex as the ones in the previous point, but the authors have to explain very carefully how their proposed method could be used, in the future, to solve real-world problems.
3 Papers considering original research on new CI architectures, models or techniques are also welcome, but the authors would have to make a detailed description of how their proposed approach is compared with other related approaches.

Specific Topics of interest (not limited to)

Fuzzy Logic Theory
Fuzzy Control
Fuzzy Logic in Pattern Recognition
Type-2 Fuzzy Logic
Intuitionistic Fuzzy Logic
Fuzzy Logic Applications
Neural Networks Theory
Neural Network Control
Neural Networks for Prediction
Neural Networks for Pattern Recognition
Modular Neural Networks
Neuro-Fuzzy Models and Applications
Evolutionary Computing Theory
Genetic Algorithms for Applications
Genetic Algorithms for Neural Network Optimization
Genetic Algorithm for Fuzzy System Optimization
Genetic Fuzzy Systems
Genetic Neural Systems
Neuro-Fuzzy-Genetic Approaches
Intelligent Agents
Social Systems
Swarm Intelligence
Ant Colonies Algorithms
Chaos Theory and Fractals

Call for Special Sessions and Panel Discussions

The IFSA 2007 Program Committee also solicits proposals for special sessions and panel discussions within the technical scope of the congress. Special sessions or panel discussions are organized by internationally recognized experts, and aimed to bring together researchers in a focused topic. Papers submitted for special sessions or panel discussions are to be peer-reviewed with the same criteria used for the contributed papers.

Researchers interested in organizing a special session or a panel discussion are invited to submit a formal proposal.

Special session or panel discussion proposals should include the session title, a brief description of its scope, motivation, and its appeal to the attendees of this conference, organizer names, contact information, and brief CVs of the organizers.

Important Due Dates

Special Session and Panel Discussion Proposals :   *8 September, 2006*

Acceptance of Special Session and Panel Discussion :   *18 September, 2006*

Paper submission: *16 October, 2006*

Decision Notification :   *15 December, 2006*

Camera ready copy due: *29 January, 2007*

Conference dates: *18-21 June, 2007*

For more information visit the web page: www.hafsamx.org/ifsa2007

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE 2006
Tijuana, Mexico October 9-11
www.hafsamx.org/cis-chmexico/seminar06

The International Seminar on Computational Intelligence will be held this year in Tijuana, Mexico, October 9-11, 2006. The Seminar is supported by the IEEE Computational Society, Chapter Mexico, and by the Hispanic American Fuzzy Systems Association (member of IFSA). Sponsorship of the Seminar is by the Tijuana Institute of Technology and the National Research Council of Mexico (CONACYT). The Seminar will consist of Distinguished Lectures, Invited Lectures, regular paper presentations and student paper presentations. The first day of the Seminar, for the opening ceremonies, Prof. Witold Pedrycz will give a Keynote presentation, under the IEEE Distinguished Lecture Program, entitled "Human-Centric Constructs of Granular Computing and Fuzzy Logic". After this keynote presentation, several invited speakers, coming from Mexico and USA will give interesting lectures on their respective areas of research. A technical program of regular and student paper presentations will follow. Also, a workshop on "Hybrid Intelligent Systems" will be organized by members of HAFSA on the second day of the seminar. For the students, a Best Paper Competition will be organized, and awards for the best three papers will be given to the students. The awards will consist on Books, and Journals given by International Publishers and Certificates of Achievement.

Important Dates

Paper Submission deadline:	**June 30, 2006**
Acceptance of papers:	*July 31st, 2006*
Registration:	**August 26th, 2006**
Publication (CD format):	*October 9, 2006*

For more information visit the web page:
http://www.hafsamx.org/cis-chmexico/seminar06/

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

For the ones interested in contributing information or a paper for the next issue of the newsletter, please send a word file before August 15th to ocastillo@tectijuana.mx.