

IFSA Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 1, September 2007



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In this issue, a report on the IFSA 2007 World Congress that was held in Cancun, Mexico in June of 2007 is presented. A brief note on the Awards presented at IFSA'2007 is also presented. A report on the IFSA Council meetings held in Cancun in conjunction with the IFSA'07 Congress is offered. Finally, the call for papers for GEFS'2008 is announced.

REPORT OF THE IFSA'2007 WORLD CONGRESS

The IFSA'2007 Congress was held in Cancun, Mexico, in June 17-21, 2007 with the participation of over 300 persons. There were over 200 papers presented in the technical program of the congress. The 8 plenary speeches were an enriching part of the program, and the three panels originated a lot of new ideas. There was also a Special Track of FLINT organized by the research group at Berkeley. The proceedings of IFSA2007 consisted of three edited books, one of the Lecture Notes' Series and the other ones of the Advances in Soft Computing Series. The information of the books is as follows:

Lecture Notes Book:

Title: FOUNDATIONS OF FUZZY LOGIC AND SOFT COMPUTING

Editors:

Oscar Castillo, Patricia Melin, Luis T. Aguilar, Janusz Kacprzyk, Witold Pedrycz

First Book of Advances in Soft Computing:

Title: ANALYSIS AND DESIGN OF INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS USING SOFT COMPUTING TECHNIQUES

Editors:

Patricia Melin, Oscar Castillo, Eduardo Gomez-Ramirez, Janusz Kacprzyk, Witold Pedrycz

Second Book of Advances in Soft Computing:

Title: THEORETICAL ADVANCES AND APPLICATIONS OF FUZZY LOGIC AND SOFT COMPUTING

Editors:

Oscar Castillo, Patricia Melin, Oscar Montiel, Roberto Sepulveda, Witold Pedrycz, Janusz Kacprzyk

Please check the web site of the congress: www.hafsamx.org/ifsa2007.

IFSA AWARDS AND FELLOWS PRESENTED AT THE IFSA'2007 WORLD CONGRESS IN CANCUN, MEXICO

The IFSA fellows for the year 2007 were recognized during the banquet of the World Congress in Cancun on June 19, 2007. The complete list is as follows:

James Baldwin
Zenn Bien
Jim Keller
Etienne Kerre
Lazlo Koczy
Sadaaki Miyamoto
Hung T. Nguyen
Sankar K. Pal

Also, the IFSA Industrial Award was given to the following well-known researchers:

Hiroshi Nakajima (OMRON)
Dimitar Filev (Ford Motors)
Jun Ozawa (Panasonic)

Congratulations to all the recipients!

REPORT ON THE IFSA COUNCIL IFSA'07

The Council meeting took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cancun, Mexico. It started at 19:05 and ended at 21:40.

Attendance: Lotfi Zadeh (Honorary President), Witold Pedrycz (President), Janusz Kacprzyk (President-Elect), Zenn Bien (Past President), Kyung Min (Treasurer), Kaoru Hirota (Vice-President), Imre Rudas (Vice-President), Oscar Castillo (Vice-President), Takeshi Furuhashi (SOFT), Frank Rhee (KFIS), Guoqing Chen (FMSAC), Lluís Godó (EUSFLAT), Ricardo Tanscheit (SBA), Laszlo Koczy (HFA), Jorma Mattila (NSAIS), Ildar Batyrshin (RAFSSoftCom), Fernando Gomide (Secretary).

Invited: João Souza, Uzay Kaymak and João Carvalho (IFSA World Congress 2009), Patricia Melin (IFSA World Congress 2007), Bernard de Baets (FSS).

1) President opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees, and introduced the issues to be included in the agenda of the meeting. Ricardo Tanscheit and Fernando volunteered as reporters.

The President introduced the following agenda of the meeting:

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda

2. Approval of minutes of previous Berkeley and Vancouver Council meetings
3. Report on membership
4. Proposals for IFSA 2011
5. Update on IFSA 2009
6. Election of IFSA Officers
7. Report on Finances
8. Report on activities of Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
9. Report on FSS
10. IFSA Newsletter
11. IFSA–IEEE interaction
12. IFSA Industrial Award
13. IFSA Constitution and Bylaws
14. All other business
15. Adjournment

The agenda was accepted.

- 2) Approval of minutes of previous Berkeley and Vancouver Council meetings.

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved unanimously.

- 3) Report on membership.

Imre presented a summary on the number of individual and institutional members of IFSA and informed that Russian Society has become its new member. There are some prospective new members, from countries such as Turkey and Romania.

- 4) Proposals for IFSA 2011.

Kaoru informed the Council that, given the absence of proposals, he had made contact with a former student of his, from Indonesia, to check whether he would be prepared to organize IFSA 2011 in his country. Kaoru's ex-student eventually accepted the invitation and submitted a proposal, details of which were given by Witold:

Date – June 21st; Place – University; Cost – low;

Registration – US\$ 400.00 (US\$ 300.00 for students);

Attractiveness – should attract many people from Asia.

In Witold's opinion, the proposal should be approved. Kaoru added that the University of Indonesia will organize a small symposium in 2008, which could be a good test prior to the Congress. Some members expressed their apprehension on Indonesia not being a sufficiently stable region, which might discourage participation. Nonetheless, the proposal was preliminarily approved. Laszlo suggested that the Council should look into this issue in two-years' time.

- 5) Update on IFSA 2009.

Joaõ Sousa proposed that IFSA 2009 and EUSFLAT 2009 should take place together. The event would be larger and EUSFLAT agreed to that. Kyung said that financial aspects were not obvious and should be looked into. Some discussions on the pros and cons of such an arrangement took place and eventually Janusz suggested not to take matters further and to leave financial and organizational aspects to be decided by the societies' treasurers and by the organizers. Witold suggested leaving a decision to the 2nd Council Meeting with participation of

the new IFSA Council officers. João Souza proceeded by giving details on other aspects of IFSA 2009: Congress site (five rooms, a large one that fits 400 people, perhaps an even larger one, for 600 people), date (20-23 July) and website (already in operation).

Witold congratulated Oscar Castillo and Patricia Melin on the organization of IFSA 2007.

6) Election of IFSA Officers.

Zenn read out the nominations and submitted the motion of an open vote for President–Elect, since there was only one candidate. It was unanimously approved that in single candidate cases there would be an open vote from then on. Kaoru, the single candidate for President–Elect, was then elected unanimously by this procedure.

As for the election of Vice-Presidents, Kyung informed the societies' voting rights:

- SOFT, KFIS: 2 votes each
- FMSAC, EUSFLAT, NAFIPS, SBA, HFA, NSAIS, HAFSA, RAFSSotCom: 1 vote each
- Current officers: 8 votes
- TOTAL: 20 possible votes

Zenn counted the votes and Frank noted down his callings. The elected Vice-Presidents were: Imre Rudas, Luis Magdalena, Takeshi. Furuhashi, and Oscar Castillo.

Following the same open vote procedure as for the election of President–Elect, the single candidate for Secretary, Isao was unanimously elected.

The elected officers were:

- President–Elect: Kaoru Hirota
- Vice-presidents: Imre Rudas, Luis Magdalena , Takeshi. Furuhashi, Oscar Castillo
- Secretary: Isao Hayashi

The treasurer, Kyung, remains for the next term.

7) Report on Finances.

Witold asked the Council to ponder on initiatives on how to effectively use the money for the benefit of the fuzzy set community. Janusz stated that a good alternative would be the support of students attending conferences. Witold mentioned that IFSA provided technical support to about five events (conferences and workshops).

8) Report on activities of Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

Fernando prepared a summary of reports that had been sent in by the chairman of each IFSA SIG(Weldon Lodwick, Optimization; Rudolf Seizing, History; Christian Schuh, Medicine). In his opinion, SIGs are doing a good job: they have organized several invited sessions at IFSA and all major fuzzy sets and systems conferences worldwide, published papers and a book. Witold said that he would prepare a letter expressing the gratitude to the chairman of the IFSA SIGs.

9) Report on FSS.

Bernard informed that there have been some changes to the Editorial Board. He also informed that, according to Elsevier, FSS is the only journal that comes very high in various disciplines,

and that the number of submissions has been very high (700 this year). Finally, Bernard noted that a special attention could be paid to Africa, by encouraging the formation of groups on this continent.

10) IFSA Newsletter.

Oscar informed that it has been published together with FSS and maintained updated on the IFSA website.

11) IFSA–IEEE interaction.

Janusz reported to the Council that the interaction with IEEE has been modest, mainly due to IEEE not being flexible. Progress has been very slow and limited. Witold said that the channel should be kept open however a substantial progress should no be expected in a very near future.

12) IFSA Industrial Award

Kaoru reported on the nomination process and provided a brief overview of each of the three nominees that have been voted by the board: Hiroshi Nakajima (OMRON), Dimitar Filev (Ford Motors), Jun Ozawa (Panasonic). The awards will be presented at the IFSA 2007 banquet.

13) IFSA Constitution and Bylaws

Fernando summarized the main modifications done to the IFSA Constitution and Bylaws. For instance, individual membership has been removed because it does not exist anymore; Chapters, SIGS, have been included, the Past President as a member of the IFSA Council has been included as well. It was also suggested that constitution amendment be by majority vote. Fernando explained that basically the draft version mirrors the current operation mode of the IFSA. Fernando also suggested moving voting procedures to Bylaws, to include IFSA Fellows and Industrial Awards procedures, and considering inclusion of Senior Past President as a non-voting member of the Council. The idea is the Senior Past President help IFSA long range planning. Laszlo suggested the inclusion of IFSA Awards in the Constitution. Witold said that there will be a long process before IFSA gets it new constitution and bylaws ready however it is encouraging to see a steady and significant progress on these two important documents. .

14) All other business

Since IFSA strictly speaking is not legally registered, but has an account in Finland, Janusz suggested that Christer Carlsson should be invited as an advisor to the current President. Laszlo and Zenn recalled how the whole process of setting up an account in Finland occurred. Kyung suggested that bank drafts could be signed by the Treasurer, the President and Christer. The motion, put in by Witold, that the President has the right to appoint advisors, was approved by the Council.

Kaoru submitted a proposal for technical support for two conferences: ISCHIA 2008, in Dalian, PRC, November 2008, and another one in Indonesia, in January 2008, which is related to IFSA 2011. Both requests were approved.

15) Adjournment.

With no other issues to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 21:40.

3rd International Workshop on Genetic and Evolving Fuzzy Systems

The past decade has witnessed a trend towards augmenting fuzzy systems with learning and adaptation capabilities. One of the most prominent approaches to hybridize fuzzy systems with learning and adaptation methods has resulted in the emergence of *genetic fuzzy systems*, which meld the approximate reasoning method of fuzzy systems with the adaptation capabilities of evolutionary algorithms. Another evolution-inspired paradigm, *evolving fuzzy systems*, emerged as a promising tool to address designing and learning fuzzy systems learning in on-line mode and in real-time. Fuzzy systems have demonstrated the ability to formalize in a computationally efficient manner the approximate reasoning typical of humans. Evolution-inspired algorithms constitute a robust technique in complex optimization, identification, learning, and adaptation problems. Their confluence leads to increased capabilities for the design and optimization of fuzzy systems.

GEFS'08 will become the third workshop in a series of highly successful symposiums dedicated to serving the needs of academics and practitioners in computational intelligence. The first two productive workshops in Granada, Spain and Ambleside, UK were attended by over 60 participants. The objective of GEFS'08 is to facilitate the promotion of novel problems, research, results and future directions in the emerging area of genetic and evolving fuzzy systems. GEFS'08 will provide an opportunity to meet old friends, making new contacts and exchange ideas.

The workshop programme without being limited to will focus on:

Genetic Fuzzy Rule-Based Systems

- Evolutionary Algorithms for Learning and Tuning Fuzzy-Rule Based Systems
- Evolutionary Design of Fuzzy Rule Based Systems
- Evolutionary Fuzzy Modeling
- Computational Intelligence

Evolving Fuzzy Systems

- Evolving Neuro-Fuzzy Systems and Models
- On-line Identification of Fuzzy Systems and Real-Time Algorithms
- Evolving Fuzzy Clustering Methods
- Evolving Fuzzy Classifiers

Real-world applications

- Robotics
- Control Systems
- Industrial Applications
- Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery

The workshop will take place in Witten-Bommerholz – located at the southern border of the Ruhr Area. 150 years of industrial history have given the Ruhr Area its current structure, made it into one of the largest European centres of population, to a melting pot of nations and cultures. The Dortmund University conference centre Witten-Bommerholz provides ideal facility for small conferences and workshops with its dining services and 38 modern guest-rooms at hotel standard.

Paper submission, tutorial, special sessions	1 October, 2007
Acceptance notification, early registration	10 December, 2007
Final version due	1 February, 2008
Workshop	4-7 March, 2008

Contact: GEFS'08 Organizing Committee
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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 to ocastillo@tectijuana.mx.