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In this issue, a report on the election of Prof. Janusz Kacprzyk to the Spanish Royal Academy is presented. A report on the IFSA membership for 2007 by Prof. Imre Rudas is also presented. Finally, the call for papers of NAFIPS'2008 is announced.

Prof. Kacprzyk Elected to Spanish Royal Academy

Professor Janusz Kacprzyk, President of IFSA, was elected in December, 2007 Foreign Member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Economic and Financial Sciences (Real Academia de Ciencias Economicas y Financieras-RACEF:www.racef.es). The incorporation of Prof. Kacprzyk to this organization as a new member makes the Royal Academy of Economic and Financial Sciences of Spain much richer, and surely important scientific and technical contributions will be made in the near future. An acceptance speech by Prof. Janusz Kacprzyk will be delivered, as part of the election process, to the members of the Academy. The news of the election of Prof. Kacprzyk were notified on December 13 of 2007 by Prof. Jaime Gil Aluja, who is the President of the Spanish Royal Academy. This is a recognition that it is well deserved by Prof. Kacprzyk and makes proud the whole IFSA community.

Janusz Kacprzyk is Professor of Computer Science at the Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, and Honorary Professor at the Department of Mathematics, Yli Normal University, Shanxi, China. He has been a visiting professor at many universities in the USA, England, Italy and Mexico. He is Academician (Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences). His research interests include soft computing, fuzzy logic, decision-making, decision analysis and decision support, database querying, information retrieval, data analysis, data mining, etc. He is President of IFSA (International Fuzzy Systems Association), and President of the Polish Society for Operational and Systems Research. He is Fellow of IEEE and IFSA. He received The 2005 IEEE CIS Fuzzy Pioneer Award for pioneering works on multistage fuzzy control, notably fuzzy dynamic programming, and The Sixth Kaufmann Prize and Gold Medal for pioneering works on the use of fuzzy logic in economy and management. His publication record is: 5 books, 30 volumes, 300 papers. He is Editor in chief of 3 Springer's book series, is on editorial boards of 25 journals, and a member of the IPC at more than 200 conferences.

IFSA Membership Report, 2007

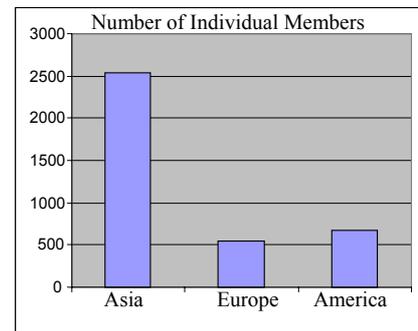
Year 2007 brought for IFSA and its institutional members significant development in all branches including membership development. Recently, we were pleased to have an IFSA council meeting during the IFSA 2007 World Congress, in Cancun, June 2007, where we have presented information related to the activity of the IFSA institutional members. We take this opportunity to analyze and summarize the current state of IFSA membership, and to point out our goals and future strategy in IFSA membership development. I would like to express my great appreciation to the IFSA council members and the representatives of the IFSA institutional members for their great help in preparing the report.



IFSA has 14 institutional members, these being listed below by category:

Category B: SOFT (Japan Society for Fuzzy Theory and Intelligent Informatics), CFSAT (Chinese Fuzzy Systems Association T), KFIS (Korea Fuzzy Logic and Intelligent Systems Society).

Category C: FMSAC (Fuzzy Mathematics and Systems Association of China), EUSFLAT (European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology), NAFIPS (North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society), SBA (Brazilian Society of Automatics), VFSS (Fuzzy Systems Society, Vietnam), SIGEF (Internat. Assoc. for Fuzzy Set Management and Economy), HFA (Hungarian Fuzzy Association), FIRST (Fuzzy systems and Intelligent technologies Research Society of Thailand), NSAIS (North European Society of Adaptive and Intelligent Systems), HAFSA (Hispanic-American Fuzzy System Association), RAFSSoftCom (Russian Association for Fuzzy Systems and Soft Computing)



Member	Country	Number of individual members	Number of institutional members	Total
SOFT	Japan	1060	14	1074
CFSAT	Taiwan	301	0	301
KFIS	Korea	680	54	734
FMSAC	China	200	0	200
EUSFLAT	Europe	174	0	174
NAFIPS	North America	200	0	200
SBA	Brazil	390	15	405
VFSS	Vietnam	250	0	250
SIGEF	Spain	222	0	222
HFA	Hungary	54	0	54
FIRST	Thailand	44	0	44
NSAIS	Finland	30	1	31
HAFSA	Mexico	80	1	81
RAFSSoftCom	Russia	70	0	70
TOTAL		3755	85	3840

In regards of membership development we were very pleased to learn that the total number of individual members of IFSA, have increased in 2007 to 3755, compared to 3522, the number of individual members in 2006. In this development a significant part is attributed to SBA.

All the IFSA members have a wide range of activities covering membership development, publications, conferences and other activities. From the point of view of membership development, in 2006, RAFSSoftCom has joined

IFSA and in 2007 the society had several activities and has shown to be an important gain to IFSA.

Also, we expect that other societies will join IFSA soon. We are really excited about the fact that recently several national societies were created and we wish them a very prosperous year,

looking forward to have them as institutional members. There are some prospective new members, from countries such as Turkey, Romania and Tunisia. From the scientific point of view, the contributions of the IFSA institutional members are very important in further development of the topic of fuzzy logic and soft computing. Totally, IFSA members publish 11 journals and proceedings of several conferences, all of them having a high international reputation. Also, several workshops and conferences are (co)-sponsored by each of the societies. As a conclusion, we expect a sustained development of IFSA and all of its Institutional members. Also, we have summarized above the distribution of the individual members of IFSA member societies by continent. This shows that far the highest number of individual members is in Asia, followed by America and Europe.

As a goal for membership development we would like to encourage the establishment of new national societies all over the world, including Africa and Australia, and IFSA would like to have these as new member societies. Our strategy to attain this goal is to have an established contact with researchers in countries where the IFSA member societies are not founded yet, and to encourage these researchers to establish new IFSA member societies.

Imre J. Rudas graduated from Bánki Donát Polytechnic, Budapest in 1971, received the Master Degree in Mathematics from the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, the Ph.D. in Robotics from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1987, while the Doctor of Science degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He is active as a full professor and Head of Institute of Intelligent Engineering Systems. He serves as the Rector of Budapest Tech from August 1, 2003 for a period of four years. He is the Vice President of IFSA for Membership Development. He is the President of Hungarian Fuzzy Association and Steering Committee Member of Hungarian Robotics Association and John von Neumann Computer Society. He serves as an associate editor of IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics, member of editorial board of Journal of Advanced Computational Intelligence and Control Engineering Practice, member of various national and international scientific committees. He is the founder of the IEEE International Conference Series on Intelligent Engineering Systems and IEEE International Conference on Computational Cybernetics, and some regional symposia. He has served as General Chairman and Program Chairman of numerous scientific international conferences. His present areas of research activity are: Robotics with special emphasis on Robot Control, Soft Computing, Computer Aided Process Planning, Fuzzy Control and Fuzzy Sets. He has published one book, more than 300 papers in various journals and international conference proceedings.

International NAFIPS'08 Conference

Dear Colleagues, you are invited you to participate in the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society Annual Conference, NAFIPS'08, to be held at Rockefeller University in New York on May 19-22, 2008.

New York City is one of the unique cities in the world. It provides a unique and stimulating environment for NAFIPS-08. Between the spectacular settings, and world-famous museums and galleries, New York is an ideal location for a few extra days of pre- or post-conference recreation.

Papers should be submitted online through the link provided on the NAFIPS'08 web site (http://nafips.ece.ualberta.ca/nafips08/paper_sub.htm). They have to be no more than six (6) pages long including results, figures, and references, in IEEE style (see the NAFIPS'08 web site for details).

IMPORTANT DATES

Papers submission deadline: **January 27, 2008**

Notification of acceptance of papers: **March 3, 2008**

Final paper submission and Early Registration: **March 31, 2008**

We strongly encourage students to submit papers. Special best paper awards are to be presented at the conference banquet to recognize the accomplishments of students. To qualify, a student or a group of students must be the primary author(s) of the paper. The paper will be judged based on both manuscript content and presentation.

Student Registration Fee REDUCED!

We offer 50% off the regular registration fee for students. This covers all technical activities and CD version of conference proceedings, but excludes the banquet and registration package. To be qualified for the registration at this reduced fee, a proof of student status will be required. All undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for this reduced rate.

STUDENT REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE REIMBURSED UPON ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.

For further details, please contact:

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NAFIPS'08 aims to bring together researchers, engineers and practitioners to present the latest achievements and innovations in the area of fuzzy information processing, to discuss thought-provoking developments and challenges, and to consider potential future directions.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

Fuzzy sets methodology/Algorithms/Mathematics

Computational Intelligence/Learning

Fuzzy modeling/Intelligent data analysis

Pattern recognition/Image processing

Data mining/Databases

Human-centric interfaces/Visualization

Neuro-fuzzy systems/Evolutionary optimization

Adaptive systems/Uncertainty management

Control/Robotics/Computer vision

Bioinformatics/Software engineering/Intelligent agents

Applications/Computational experiments/Case studies

Hybrid architectures

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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.