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Preface

This book, i.e., LNAI vol. 4223, is the proceedings of the Third International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (FSKD 2006), jointly held with the Second International Conference on Natural Computation (ICNC 2006, LNCS vols. 4221 and 4222) during September 24 – 28, 2006 in Xi'an, Shaanxi, China. FSKD 2006 successfully attracted 1274 submissions from 35 countries/regions (the joint ICNC-FSKD 2006 received 3189 submissions). After rigorous reviews, 165 high-quality papers, i.e., 115 long papers and 50 short papers, were included in the FSKD 2006 proceedings, representing an acceptance rate of 13.0%.

ICNC-FSKD 2006 featured the most up-to-date research results in computational algorithms inspired from nature, including biological, ecological, and physical systems. It is an exciting and emerging interdisciplinary area in which a wide range of techniques and methods are being studied for dealing with large, complex, and dynamic problems. The joint conferences also promoted cross-fertilization over these exciting and yet closely related areas, which had a significant impact on the advancement of these important technologies. Specific areas included neural computation, quantum computation, evolutionary computation, DNA computation, fuzzy computation, granular computation, artificial life, etc., with innovative applications to knowledge discovery, finance, operations research, and more. In addition to the large number of submitted papers, we were honored with the presence of six renowned keynote speakers.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we thank Xidian University for sponsorship, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the International Neural Network Society, the Asia-Pacific Neural Network Assembly, the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society, the IEEE Computational Intelligence Singapore Chapter, and the Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence for technical co-sponsorship. We thank the members of the Organizing Committee, the Advisory Board, and the Program Committee for their hard work in the past 12 months. We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the keynote speakers, session chairs, reviewers, and student helpers. Our special thanks go to the publish, Springer, for publishing the FSKD 2006 proceedings as one volume of the *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence* series (and the ICNC 2006 proceeding as two volumes of the Lecture Notes in Computer Science series). Finally, we thank all the authors and participants for their great contributions that made this conference possible and all the hard work worthwhile.

September 2006

Lipo Wang
Licheng Jiao

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FSKD 2006 was organized by Xidian University and technically co-sponsored by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the International Neural Network Society, the Asia-Pacific Neural Network Assembly, the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society, the IEEE Computational Intelligence Singapore Chapter, and the Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence.

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