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Preface

This book constitutes a collection of papers presented at the joint *International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks* and *International Conference on Neural Information Processing*, ICANN/ICONIP 2003, from June 26–29, 2003 in Istanbul, Turkey. The conference was organized by Boğaziçi University, Istanbul in cooperation with the Soft Computational Intelligence Society, Turkey. The ICANN conferences were initiated in 1991 and have become the major European meeting in the field of neural networks. Similarly, the ICONIP conferences were initiated in 1994 and have become the major Asian meeting in the field. This conference was the first one combining the two. Being held in Istanbul, Turkey, it bridged the two continents and brought together the researchers from them in a joint meeting.

From 346 submitted papers, the program committee selected 102 for publication as long papers. There were also 36 papers presented in the special sessions. We would like to thank all the members of the program committee, special session organizers, and reviewers for their great effort in the reviewing process and for helping us to organize a scientific program of high quality.

We would like to thank the Asia Pacific Neural Network Assembly (APPNA) and the European Neural Network Society (ENNS) for their support. We acknowledge the financial support of the Boğaziçi University Foundation, the European Office of Aerospace Research and Development of the USAF, and the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council (TÜBİTAK). We would like to thank Levent Akın, Gökhan Aydın, Cem Say, and Uğur Yıldırım for their help with the local organization and Aleksander Malinowski for the web submission support. The conference and the proceedings would not have been possible without their contributions.

April 2003

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