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Preface

Autonomous agents and multi-agent systems are computational systems in which several (semi-)autonomous agents interact with each other or work together to perform some set of tasks or satisfy some set of goals. These systems may involve computational agents that are homogeneous or heterogeneous, they may involve activities on the part of agents having common or distinct goals, and they may involve participation on the part of humans and intelligent agents.

This volume contains selected papers from PRIMA 2002, the 5th Pacific Rim International Workshop on Multi-Agents, held in Tokyo, Japan, on August 18–19, 2002 in conjunction with the 7th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (PRICAI-02). PRIMA is a series of workshops on autonomous agents and multi-agent systems, integrating activities in the Asian and Pacific Rim countries. PRIMA 2002 built on the great success of its predecessors, PRIMA'98 in Singapore, PRIMA'99 in Kyoto, Japan, PRIMA 2000 in Melbourne, Australia, and PRIMA 2001 in Taipei, Taiwan.

We received 35 submissions to this workshop from 10 countries. Each paper was reviewed by three internationally renowned program committee members. After careful reviews, 15 papers were selected for this volume. We would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers to the workshop. We would also like to thank all the program committee members for their splendid work in reviewing the papers. Finally, we thank the editorial staff of Springer-Verlag for publishing this volume in the Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence.

This year, the summer school on agents and multi-agent systems was also held in conjunction with PRIMA 2002.

For more information about PRIMA, please visit the following webpages:

PRIMA webpage	http://www.lab7.kuis.kyoto-u.ac.jp/prima/
PRIMA'99 webpage	http://www.lab7.kuis.kyoto-u.ac.jp/prima99/
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PRIMA 2002 webpage	http://www.lab7.kuis.kyoto-u.ac.jp/prima2002/

This workshop was held with support from:

- The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE), Japan
- The International Foundation on Multiagent Systems (IFMAS)
- Microsoft Research Asia

June 2002

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