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Preface

ICIAR 2009, the International Conference on Image Analysis and Recognition, held in Halifax, Canada July 6–8, 2009, was the sixth in the ICIAR series of annual conferences alternating between Europe and North America. ICIAR 2004 was held in Porto, Portugal, ICIAR 2005 in Toronto, Canada, ICIAR 2006 in Póvoa do Varzim, Portugal, ICIAR 2007 in Montreal, Canada, and ICIAR 2008 in Póvoa do Varzim, Portugal. The idea of offering these conferences came as a result of discussion between researchers in Portugal and Canada to encourage collaboration and exchange, mainly between these two countries, but also with the open participation of other countries, addressing recent advances in the theory, methodology and applications of image analysis and recognition.

For ICIAR 2009, we received a total of 164 full papers from 34 countries. The review process was carried out by the Program Committee members and other reviewers; all are experts in various image analysis and recognition areas. Each paper was reviewed by at least two reviewers, and also checked by the conference Co-chairs. In all, 93 papers were finally accepted (45 oral presentations, and 48 posters) and appear in these proceedings. This year, different from previous years, we opted for single sessions rather than parallel sessions to encourage participation in all sessions. The high quality of the papers is attributed first to the authors, and second to the quality of the reviews provided by the experts. We would like to thank the authors for responding to our call for papers, some are returning authors who attended previous editions of the conference and some are new. We would like to sincerely thank the reviewers for their careful evaluation and the excellent feedback they provided to the authors. It is this collective effort that resulted in the strong conference program and high-quality proceedings in your hands.

We were very pleased to be able to include in the conference program keynote talks by three well-known experts from Canada: Kaleem Siddiqi, McGill University; John K. Tsotsos, York University and Peter Gregson, Dalhousie University. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each of them for accepting our invitation to share with the conference participants their recent advances in the fields of image analysis, recognition and their applications.

We would like to thank Khaled Hammouda, the webmaster of the conference, for maintaining the website, interacting with the authors and preparing the proceedings. We would like to thank the conference secretariat Cathie Lowell, for administrative assistance. We are grateful for Qiang Gao for undertaking the role of local arrangement Chair. He and his team provided excellent input, advice, excellent planning and support. The excellent facility provided by Dalhousie University, Canada is gratefully acknowledged. We also appreciate the help of Springer's editorial staff for supporting this publication in the LNCS series.

Finally, we were very pleased to welcome all the participants to this conference. For those who did not attend, we hope this publication provides a good view into the research presented at the conference, and we look forward to meeting you at the next ICIAR conference.

July 2009

Mohamed Kamel
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ICIAR 2009 – International Conference on Image Analysis and Recognition

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