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Preface

This two-volume set constitutes the Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Neural Information Processing (ICONIP 2009), held in Bangkok, Thailand, during December 1–5, 2009. ICONIP is a world-renowned international conference that is held annually in the Asia-Pacific region. This prestigious event is sponsored by the Asia Pacific Neural Network Assembly (APNNA), and it has provided an annual forum for international researchers to exchange the latest ideas and advances in neural networks and related discipline. The School of Information Technology (SIT) at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkok, Thailand was the proud host of ICONIP 2009. The conference theme was "Challenges and Trends of Neural Information Processing," with an aim to discuss the past, present, and future challenges and trends in the field of neural information processing.

ICONIP 2009 accepted 145 regular session papers and 53 special session papers from a total of 466 submissions received on the Springer Online Conference Service (OCS) system. The authors of accepted papers alone covered 36 countries and regions worldwide and there are over 500 authors in these proceedings. The technical sessions were divided into 23 topical categories, including 9 special sessions. Technical highlights included a keynote speech by Shun-ichi Amari (the founder of APNNA); plenary and invited talks by Włodzisław Duch (President of the European Neural Network Society), Kuniyuki Fukushima, Tom Gedeon, Yuzo Hirai (President of the Japanese Neural Network Society), Masumi Ishikawa, Nikola Kasabov (President of the International Neural Network Society), Minh Lee, Soo-Young Lee, Andrew Chi-Sing Leung, Bao-Liang Lu, Chidchanok Lursinsap, Paul Shaoning Pang, Ron Sun, Shiro Usui, DeLiang Wang, Jun Wang, Lipo Wang and Zhi-Hua Zhou. In addition, six tutorials by Włodzisław Duch, Chun Che Fung, Irwin King, Saed Sayad, Jun Tani and M. Emin Yuksel were part of ICONIP 2009. Also, for the first time, there was a Post-ICONIP Workshop held in a neighboring country to the host: the Workshop on Advances in Intelligent Computing (WAIC 2009) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on December 7, 2009. Furthermore, the Third International Conference on Advances in Information Technology (IAIT2009) was collocated with ICONIP 2009.

We are indebted to the members of the conference Advisory Board as well as the Governing Board and Past Presidents of APNNA for their advice and assistance in the organization and promotion of ICONIP 2009. We are thankful to the Program Committee and Technical Committee members for their dedication and support in providing rigorous and timely reviews, especially for the last round of submissions due to our extended submission deadline. Each paper was reviewed by at least two referees and three or more reviews were provided in most of the cases. The Program Committee Chairs opted to use the relatively new OCS system and we put it through a rigorous workout and helped the system to smooth out numerous minor issues. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience the authors may have experienced during the entire paper submission and reviewing process.

A special thanks to the Conference Secretariat, Olarn Rojanapornpun, who worked tirelessly to facilitate many of the conference delegates and to produce these final proceedings. The Organizing Committee members would like to express our sincere appreciation to the devoted behind-the-scene work by Wannida Soontreerutana, Chompoonut Watcharinkorn, Paweena Mongkolpongsiri, Thanyapat Natwaratit, Chutikarn Hongpitakkul, Korakot Eadjongdee, Suda Kasikitsakunphon, Kanittha Charoensuk and Monthana Hunjinda. Last but not least, the organizers gratefully acknowledge the contribution and support from all speakers, panelists and authors, as well as all other participants, in making ICONIP 2009 a resounding success.

December 2009

Jonathan H. Chan
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