

Sharing Some Experience



We held our society's first Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting of this year on April 8, 2018, in Sydney, Australia. Although I had attended several ExCom meetings as the Vice-President for Publications and as the President-Elect, this was my first meeting as the President and hence was of a special importance to me. We had a long but very successful meeting. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of the ExCom for their very active participation and providing useful suggestions, which will certainly help to take the society ahead.

In our society we make use of every opportunity to strengthen our interaction with people and it is not restricted to the members of the Computational Intelligence Society (CIS). Keeping this in mind, we carefully choose the locations for our ExCom meetings and usually organize one (and sometimes even two) one-day workshop on computational intelligence and its applications in the region where the meeting is held. To the extent I know, this initiative was started in 2011 and so far it has been found to be very successful in achieving its intended goals of allowing us to reach out to students, researchers, and practitioners. Generally we find a "champion" from a local university/institute or from the local CIS chapter, if any, to organize the event. Every ExCom member, who attends the ExCom meeting in person, serves as a speaker to the workshop. In addition, to strengthen our bonding with the local researchers as well as to get a better idea of some of the research activities that the local researchers are engaged in, often we invite a few speakers from the neighboring institutes/universities. In the past years we organized very successful events in different countries including Brazil, Cyprus, Peru, Spain, Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina. This year, after the ExCom meeting, we have organized two such workshops, one in Sydney (on April 9) and the other in Canberra (on April 10). In Sydney, the workshop was organized by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) under the leadership of Prof. Jie Lu. It was a very well-attended event—more than 100 researchers/students participated in this workshop. The second workshop was organized by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra and Prof. Hussein Abbass took the lead in organizing this event. This was also a well-attended one with more than 80 participants. For this event, in addition to the ExCom members, Prof. Jason Scholz, Adjunct Professor, University of New South Wales in Canberra and the Chief Scientist and Engineer, Defence Cooperative Research Centre (DCRC) was invited to give a talk. He spoke on "Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence CRC". These workshops covered a wide spectrum of related topics of contemporary interests including deep learning, recognition technology, machine learning, big data challenges in astrophysics, fuzzy information processing, and human-machine systems. In both workshops the participants were very enthusiastic and interactive. An important aspect of the Canberra program was that some young high school students were invited to attend the talk by Prof.

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Prof. Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier giving her talk at the UTS, Sydney workshop.



Prof. Pablo Estevez giving his talk at the UNSW, Canberra workshop.

Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier. Her talk was appropriately adapted to suit the high school students. After the talk, the students were given an opportunity to closely interact with Prof. Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier and Prof. Julia Chung (both are CIS ExCom members). This unique initiative was taken to motivate young minds to get interested in engineering, particularly in computational intelligence. Prof. Abbass deserves a special thank for this innovative idea. Such an interaction with high school students can have a long lasting effect. In future, we plan to take up more such initiatives to make high school students interested in engineering and technology.

To conclude, I would like to remind us that our favorite SSCI 2018 (IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence, 2018) will be held in Bengaluru, India during November 18–21, 2018. I look forward to seeing you all there.



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