Propose an RAS Summer School

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As already announced in the September 2011 issue of *IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine*, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) is establishing a new summer school program called the *RAS Technical Education Program*. It is jointly run by the Member Activities Board and the Technical Activities Board. The program is intended to sponsor or cosponsor up to three summer schools per year around the world. One of the three summer schools will be fully sponsored by the RAS, up to US$40,000, and it will rotate annually through RAS's three geographical regions in a round-robin fashion. The other two summer schools will be cosponsored with interested organizations in the other two geographical regions (up to US$20,000 each).

The financial support for the RAS-sponsored school is intended for sponsoring lecturers as well as for creating scholarships for students.

The review of summer school proposals is based on assessments from two different viewpoints, the first one with respect to the general structure, including organizational matters and budget, and the second one with respect to the technical content. Proposals should be sent to RAS administrators at RAS@ieee.org, who will transmit them for review by two different parties from the RAS:

- *Chair of the Education Committee Andreas Birk (a.birk@ jacobs-university.de)*: will check the general organizational structure of the summer school, including budget aspects and guide, through the general application process. The Vice President of Member Activities Stefano Stramigioli (s.stramigioli@utwente.nl) and the Vice President of Technical Activities Satoshi Tadokoro (tadokoro@rm.is.tohoku.ac.jp) will also help.
- *Suitable Technical Committees (TCs) of the RAS*: current TCs, with their chairs, who are to be contacted are listed at http://tab.ieee-ras.org/. TCs that are most closely related to the topic of the summer school should review the technical contents of the school. A summer school can only be funded if there is a positive endorsement from one of the related TCs.

The organizers are encouraged to contact both the chair of the education committee and the related TCs as early as possible, ideally both in parallel, e.g., by sending an e-mail with a short preproposal to the chair(s) of the related TCs and the education chair. It makes sense to first check for the content questions with the TCs before working out a budget. However, in some cases there may be purely organizational questions where it is logical to first contact the education chair. But in general, there should be a clear idea about the scope (topic, possible speakers, hands-on experiments, and so on), time frame (when and how long), location (available teaching/laboratory facilities,

Proposals for RAS-Sponsored Summer School

As there are different models for successful schools, there is no special form for applications at the moment. However, your proposal (even in an early brainstorming phase) should at least cover the following aspects:

- scope (topic, possible speakers, tentative lecture titles, hands-on experiments, and so on)
- the RAS TC(s) related to your topic (see http://tab.ieee-ras.org/)
- time frame (when and how long), location (available teaching/laboratory facilities, accommodation, and travel), and organizational schedule
- budget (student scholarship, number of invited speakers, number of attendees, registration fees, expected sources of support, other major costs/income items, and an approximate total cost)
- information about intended collaborations with IEEE Chapters, other societies, universities, sponsor companies, and other forms of additional support.

Send proposals to ras@ieee.org.

community. The I-RAS received the RAS Chapter of the Year Award in 2006 and 2008, respectively.

The virtual marketplace of the community is the recently developed Web site [8], which has been designed to keep information of practical use at a national level, especially for young researchers. As an example, a page has been developed that collects several robotics classes and material, and another page is aimed at pointing toward the most popular robotics software. The Web site also stores a copy of the newsletters sent to members via the IEEE notification service [7].

Each year, the Chapter promotes an award for the young authors who have been published in RAS-sponsored journals and organizes an infor-

Figure 2. Award ceremony for the Young Author Best Paper Award 2011 held in Pisa, 7 September 2011. From left: Gianluca Antonelli (I-RAS chair), Marco Carricato (cowinner), and Michele Conconi (cowinner).

mal ceremony for the presentations. Figure 2 shows the last award ceremony held in Pisa in September 2011, in which approximately 50 I-RAS members participated and had a pleasant dinner.

References

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accommodation, and travel), organizational schedule, and rough budget (student scholarship, number of invited speakers, number of attendees, registration fees, expected sources of support, other major costs/income items, and approximate total cost) when you contact the education and TC chairs.

The final decision of support is made by the Administrative Committee at the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) each year, i.e., at the beginning of May so that schools can be set up in the following year. So, the decisions regarding the proposals for schools in 2013 will be made at ICRA 2012. Proposals are required to be reviewed by the education chair and related TCs who need to have received the proposal at least one month prior to ICRA. It is recommended to involve both parties much earlier in the process; preproposal is welcome. The education chair and

TCs will be open to give help and guidance in the establishment of strong summer schools. See "Proposals for RAS Summer Schools" for specific guidelines in preparing your proposal. Proposals must convey that there will be a general, broad interest in the topic of the summer school. Themes that involve the collaborations of several fields are particularly welcome. The RAS Technical Education Program will not support events with a local outreach or a very narrow scope. Please also include information about intended collaborations with IEEE Chapters, other societies, universities, sponsor companies, and other forms of additional support.

The financial support for the RAS-sponsored school is intended for sponsoring lecturers as well as for creating scholarships for students. The financial support for the other two annual events in the form of RAS cosponsored schools is intended

for scholarships. It is expected that the applications by students for the scholarships will be quite competitive. Interested students will have to submit an application with a CV and other needed information to the summer school organizers. Depending on the availabilities, the summer school organizers will award scholarships to the best students. Other students will have to bear the costs themselves.

> **The RAS Technical Education Program is jointly run by the Member Activities Board and the Technical Activities Board.**

Please include in the proposal some information on how the student selection process will be done, especially how the selection committee is formed.