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KES 2002

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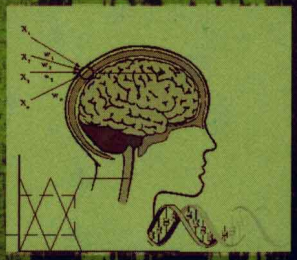

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General Chair's Welcome Message

Ernesto Damiani
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Introduction

Having taken part in a number of editions of the International Conference on Knowledge-Based Intelligent Information and Engineering Systems (KES), first as a paper presenter, then as a Session organizer, and now as the General Chair, I am glad to extend a warm welcome to all participants to the 2002 edition of KES, hosted by the Computer Technology Department of the University of Milan. Also, I welcome participants to the allied IKOMAT event, sharing with KES both location and spirit. Podere d'Ombriano, our conference venue, is an old country farmhouse in a typical Lombard setting, located not far from our campus at Crema. I hope everyone will enjoy its unique atmosphere and the opportunity of combining presenting research results with getting to know the rich heritage of arts, culture and (why not?) cuisine of this area of Italy. The KES conference is well recognized as an international forum for presenting recent work on knowledge-based, intelligent systems and is one of the few events that routinely involve researchers from all geographical areas, including the Pacific Rim and both North and South America. All KES 2002 papers were submitted either to Special Sessions, organized by prominent researchers, or to a peer-reviewed General Track, managed by an International Program Committee. Both categories of submissions were carefully refereed, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my satisfaction of the high level of quality of the accepted papers. Finally, let me mention the high-profile keynote talks by Patrick Bosc, Toyoaki Nishida and Rao Vemuri, adding a more general perspective to our program. Once more, welcome to Crema and to KES 2002!

Acknowledgements

It is very difficult to thank properly all the people involved in the organization of a huge event like KES 2002. First of all, I would like to thank Lakhmi Jain, who was the founder and still is the soul and the brain of the KES conference series, and Bob Howlett, together with Karen Richardson and all the KES staff at Brighton. Thanks are also due to KES International Advisory Committee for their support. As the local member of this Committee, Gianni Degli Antoni provided valuable advice. Then, heartfelt thanks are due to the local staff, and particularly to Mauro Madravio and Massimo Carioni, who took care respectively of the local arrangements and of the local Web site for paper submission and review. Thanks are also due to the members of the international Programme Committee, who smoothly carried out the refereeing process, to all Session Chairs for their contribution, and to IOS Press for their competent work on KES 2002 Proceedings.

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