Message from the President of IAPR

On behalf of the Governing Board of the International Association for Pattern Recognition and its Executive Committee, I would like to invite you to enjoy the hours of exciting reading the pages of these Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Pattern Recognition represent.

ICPR is organized every two years and is the highlight of the technical and professional activities of the Association. Since its inception, ICPR has grown in scope and size, reflecting the continuous growth of the field of Pattern Recognition. A distinctive feature of this conference is its concern with the full breadth of machine perception, ranging from signal processing, through signal representation, to signal interpretation. It is this broad view of the field which brings the subjects of signal and image processing, computer vision, pattern recognition, and neural networks together under the same umbrella, underlining their interplay and complementarity.

Apart from the natural explosion of scientific issues which seem to double with every question answered, a chief factor in the expanding interest in the field is the rapid progress in pattern recognition technology capability, opening new applications which, until very recently, were considered in the realm of science fiction. It is the industrial importance of the field which endorses its relevance as a scientific and engineering discipline. The biennial ICPR is an authoritative overview of these developments and an opportunity to witness the setting of new horizons.

The conference, however, does not only offer an exciting scientific program. One of the features of the event is the presentation of the prestigious King-Sun Fu Prize, awarded by IAPR biennially for a technical contribution of far-reaching significance and impact on the field of pattern recognition or its closely allied fields. The 1996 winner is Professor Teuvo Kohonen of Helsinki University of Technology (Finland) who has been selected to receive the prize for his outstanding and pioneering contributions to the theory of pattern recognition and neurocomputing. The winners of the “Best Industry Related Paper Award” and the newly-introduced “Best Student Paper Award” will also be announced at the conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the organizers of the 13th ICPR, especially its General Chair, W. Kropatsch, Program Co-Chairs, Y. Aloimonos and R. Bajcsy, and the individual conference chairs (A. Pentland, J.L. Crowley, H. Wechsler, R. Bolle, E. Dickmans, M. Seibert, and G. Hartmann) and their respective Program Committees for their hard work in creating the impressive technical program documented in these Proceedings.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee and all the officers and committee members of IAPR for their hard work, support and enthusiasm, without which the success of the Association and its activities would not be possible.

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