Message from the Co-Chairs

It is an honour to serve as the co-chairs for the *Sixth International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (FSKD’09)*, held from 14-16 August 2009, Tianjin, China, jointly with the *Fifth International Conference on Natural Computation (ICNC’09)*. The technical program of the conference reflects the tremendous growth in the field of fuzzy systems and knowledge discovery with contributions from a large number of participants around the world.

FSKD 2009 attracted 1672 submissions from 36 countries/regions. After rigorous reviews, 850 high-quality papers were included in the FSKD 2009 proceedings, representing an acceptance rate of 50.8%. The joint ICNC-FSKD 2009 received 3334 submissions, a total of 1592 papers of which were included in the ICNC-FSKD 2009 proceedings, representing an overall acceptance rate of 47.8%. These selected papers cover many novel developments and their applications in the fields of fuzzy systems and knowledge discovery. The publications reflect a sustainable interest from the wide academic community worldwide in tirelessly pursuing new solutions through effective utilizations of fuzzy logic and data mining techniques in real world problems.

We would like to specially thank all the committee members and reviewers, without whose timely help it would have been impossible to review all the submitted papers to assemble this program. We also would like take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation for all those who have worked together in organising this conference, establishing the technical programs and running the conference meetings. We greatly appreciate the authors, speakers, invited session organizers, session chairs, and others who have made this conference possible. We would also like to thank all the attendees for participating in the conference.

The conference would not have been possible without the sponsorship and support of the Tianjin University of Technology, China and the International Natural Computation and Knowledge Discovery Association (INCKDA). We wish to express our appreciation to the CPS for publishing this proceeding.

We hope that your participation into this conference provide you with the opportunities to meet both old and new friends from all over the world, to exchange ideas, to initiate collaborations in research, to develop lasting friendships, and also to visit places in Tianjin and China that you have not had chance to do so far. We trust that your stay at Tianjin will bring you great memories about the friends you met, the places you visited, and many exciting events during the conference.

Yixin Chen, *Washington University in St. Louis, USA*
Hepu Deng, *RMIT University, Australia*
Degan Zhang, *Tianjin University of Technology, China*
Yingyuan Xiao, *Tianjin University of Technology, China*

August, 2009