

Preface

ICONIP 2017 – the 24th International Conference on Neural Information Processing – was held in Guangzhou, China, continuing the ICONIP conference series, which started in 1994 in Seoul, South Korea. Over the past 24 years, ICONIP has been held in Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, and Turkey. ICONIP has now become a well-established, popular and high-quality conference series on neural information processing in the region and around the world. With the growing popularity of neural networks in recent years, we have witnessed an increase in the number of submissions and in the quality of papers. Guangzhou, Romanized as Canton in the past, is the capital and largest city of southern China's Guangdong Province. It is also one of the five National Central Cities at the core of the Pearl River Delta. It is a key national transportation hub and trading port. November is the best month in the year to visit Guangzhou with comfortable weather. All participants of ICONIP 2017 had a technically rewarding experience as well as a memorable stay in this great city.

A neural network is an information processing structure inspired by biological nervous systems, such as the brain. It consists of a large number of highly interconnected processing elements, called neurons. It has the capability of learning from example. The field of neural networks has evolved rapidly in recent years. It has become a fusion of a number of research areas in engineering, computer science, mathematics, artificial intelligence, operations research, systems theory, biology, and neuroscience. Neural networks have been widely applied for control, optimization, pattern recognition, image processing, signal processing, etc.

ICONIP 2017 aimed to provide a high-level international forum for scientists, researchers, educators, industrial professionals, and students worldwide to present state-of-the-art research results, address new challenges, and discuss trends in neural information processing and applications. ICONIP 2017 invited scholars in all areas of neural network theory and applications, computational neuroscience, machine learning, and others.

The conference received 856 submissions from 3,255 authors in 56 countries and regions across all six continents. Based on rigorous reviews by the Program Committee members and reviewers, 563 high-quality papers were selected for publication in the conference proceedings. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the reviewers for the time and effort they generously gave to the conference. We are very grateful to the Institute of Automation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangdong University of Technology, South China University of Technology, Springer's *Lecture Notes in Computer Science* (LNCS), *IEEE/CAA Journal of Automatica Sinica* (JAS), and the Asia Pacific Neural Network Society (APNNS) for their financial support. We would also like to thank the publisher, Springer, for their cooperation in

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