

Preface

Autonomous agents and multi-agent systems are computational systems in which several (semi-)autonomous agents interact with each other or work together to perform some set of tasks or satisfy some set of goals. These systems may involve computational agents that are homogeneous or heterogeneous, they may involve activities on the part of agents having common or distinct goals, and they may involve participation on the part of humans and intelligent agents.

This volume contains selected papers from PRIMA 2004, the 7th Pacific Rim International Workshop on Multi-agents, held in Auckland, New Zealand, during August 8–13, 2004 in conjunction with the 8th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (PRICAI 2004). PRIMA is a series of workshops on autonomous agents and multi-agents that focusses on the research activities in the Asian and Pacific Rim countries. PRIMA 2004 was built upon the great successes of its predecessors.

Fifty-two papers were submitted to the workshop, each paper was reviewed by three internationally renowned program committee members. After careful review, 24 papers were selected for this volume. We would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers to the workshop. We would also like to thank all the program committee members for their diligent work in reviewing the papers. We would like to thank our invited speakers, Sandip Sen and Toru Ishida. Additionally, we thank the editorial staff of Springer for publishing this volume in the series Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence. Lastly, we want to thank our sponsors, the Auckland University of Technology's Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute (KEDRI), and the University of Auckland's Department of Computer Science, for the financial support provided.

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Mike Barley
Nik Kasabov



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