Preface

Intelligent agents will be the necessity of the coming century. Software agents will pilot us through the vast sea of information, by communicating with other agents. A group of cooperating agents may accomplish a task which cannot be done by any subset of them.

This volume consists of selected papers from PRIMA’99, the second Pacific Rim International Workshop on Multi-Agents, held in Kyoto, Japan, on December 2-3, 1999.

PRIMA constitutes a series of workshops on autonomous agents and multi-agent systems, integrating the activities in Asia and the Pacific rim countries, such as MACC (Multiagent Systems and Cooperative Computation) in Japan, and the Australian Workshop on Distributed Artificial Intelligence. The first workshop, PRIMA’98, was held in conjunction with PRICAI’98, in Singapore.

The aim of this workshop is to encourage activities in this field, and to bring together researchers from Asia and Pacific rim working on agents and multiagent issues. Unlike usual conferences, this workshop mainly discusses and explores scientific and practical problems as raised by the participants. Participation is thus limited to professionals who have made a significant contribution to the topics of the workshop.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- multi-agent systems and their applications
- agent architecture and its applications
- languages for describing (multi-)agent systems
- standard (multi-)agent problems
- challenging research issues in (multi-)agent systems
- communication and dialogues
- multi-agent learning
- other issues on (multi-)agent systems

We received 43 submissions to this workshop from more than 10 countries. Each paper was reviewed by at least two program committee (PC) members who are internationally renowned researchers. After careful consideration, 17 papers were selected for these proceedings. We would like to thank all the authors who submitted their papers to this workshop. We would also like to thank all the PC members for their quality work. Special thanks goes to the keynote speaker, Professor Michael Georgeff from the Australian Artificial Intelligence Institute, for his support.

For more information about PRIMA, please check the following web pages:

PRIMA Web page http://www.lab7.kuis.kyoto-u.ac.jp/prima/
PRIMA’99 Web page http://www.lab7.kuis.kyoto-u.ac.jp/prima99/
This workshop is held in cooperation with:

- IEICE (The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers), Japan
- ETL (COE Global Information Processing Project), MITI, Japan
- MACC (Multi-Agent and Cooperative Computation), Japanese Society for Software Science and Technology

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