

Preface ISDA 2009

Welcome to the Ninth International Conference on Intelligent Systems Design and Applications (ISDA'09) held in Pisa (Italy), which is famous in the world for the Square of Miracles, where you can admire the Leaning Tower, the Cathedral and the Baptistery. ISDA'09 is hosted by the University of Pisa, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Italy, financially sponsored by the Machine Intelligence Research Labs (MIR Labs) and technically sponsored by IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society, International Fuzzy Systems Association, European Neural Network Society, European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology, and The World Federation on Soft Computing.

ISDA'09 brings together researchers, engineers, developers and practitioners from academia and industry working in all interdisciplinary areas of computational intelligence and system engineering to share their experience, and to exchange and cross-fertilize their ideas. The aim of ISDA'09 is to serve as a forum for the dissemination of state-of-the-art research, development and implementations of intelligent systems, intelligent technologies and useful applications in these two fields.

We received a total of 413 submissions from 46 countries. Each paper was reviewed by at least two reviewers and most papers had three or more reviews. Papers submitted to the special sessions and workshops were peer-reviewed with the same criteria used for regular papers. Based on the outcome of the review process, 249 papers were accepted for inclusion in the conference proceedings. We are sure that the diversity of the topics dealt with in these papers and the quality of their contents, and the international stature of the five keynote speakers, Piero Bonissone, Carlos A. Coello Coello, Hani Hagaras, Hisao Ishibuchi and Witold Pedrycz, make for an exciting conference. Finally, as proof of the quality of the program, we would like to point out that seven well-known international journals, namely Applied Soft Computing, Soft Computing, Evolutionary Intelligence, International Journal of Hybrid Intelligent Systems, International Journal of Uncertainty, Fuzziness and Knowledge-Based Systems, International Journal of Computational Intelligence and Applications, and Neural Network World, will consider extended versions of significant conference contributions for possible inclusion in special issues.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the workshop and special session organizers, the advisory board, the program committee and the numerous referees who helped us evaluate the papers and make ISDA'09 a very successful scientific event.

We hope that you will enjoy the program.

General Co-Chairs

Beatrice Lazzarini, Lakhmi Jain, Ajith Abraham

Program Committee Co-Chairs

Francesco Marcelloni, Francisco Herrera, Vincenzo Loia