



Connections

The Newsletter of the IEEE Neural Networks Council

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President's Message

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The International Conference on Neural Networks (ICNN) and FUZZ-IEEE '93 combined conferences held in San Francisco were a great success. Enrique Ruspini and his program committees are to be commended. It was obvious that combining the two meetings was a good idea. Many of the attendees in the neural network sessions were active in fuzzy logic work, and vice versa. The proceedings were again offered both on CDROM and as printed volumes.

The Council's next conference is the Virtual Reality Annual International Symposium (VRAIS), being held in Seattle, Washington,

in September. Tom Furness, Tom Caudell, Bob Marks and the rest of the organizing committees have been working hard to make this, the first IEEE-sponsored conference focused on virtual reality, an event you won't want to miss if you are working on or interested in the field. The papers being presented are of a high technical quality, and a very interesting group of exhibitors will be present.

In October, the Council will co-sponsor the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks in Nagoya, Japan. Profs. Shun-Ichi Amari and Toshio Fukuda are combining their talents to ensure the

success of the first-ever NNC-sponsored conference in Japan. If you have never been to Japan, this is a great opportunity to combine business and pleasure.

Planning is now well along for the World Congress on Computational Intelligence, to be held in Orlando, Florida, in late June, 1994. The congress will include the International Conference on Neural Networks, FUZZ/IEEE '94, and the International Symposium on Evolutionary Computation. It will be held at the same time as the World Cup is in Orlando (the first time it has been held in the United States). The combination of conferences in San



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President's Message (from cover)

San Francisco this year is thus being extended to three areas. The Congress hotel is the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel, on the Disney property near EPCOT, Disney World and the MGM Studios Theme Park. The Congress is being designed as a family event, with attractions for all ages.

Further information on each of the conferences mentioned above can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, in the Transactions on Neural Networks, and in the Transactions on Fuzzy Systems.

The NNC Virtual Reality Technology Committee met in San Francisco during the ICNN and FUZZ/IEEE '93. Chaired by Tom Caudell, the committee recommended that the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) establish an IEEE-wide Virtual Reality Technology Committee. The NNC AdCom will act upon this recommendation at its meeting in September at VRAIS '93, and if it is ratified, pass it along to the IEEE TAB at its meeting later this year. If passed by TAB, the field of virtual reality could be on its way to becoming an IEEE Council, similar to the Neural Networks Council.

I support this action, because, like neural networks, fuzzy logic and evolutionary computation, the field of virtual reality cuts across many of the IEEE Society fields of interest. To attempt to remove it from the societies would in my opinion be a mistake. To put it into one Society would also be a mistake. The Neural Networks Council has provided a home for some significant virtual reality activities, but the maturing of such a large field seems to warrant the establishment of a new Council.